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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Foreign Ministers To Resume Lebanon Talks

LD0609192589 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
1840 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Text] Jeddah, 6 Sep (SPA)—The following communique was issued today by the foreign ministers of the member countries of the Arab higher tripartite committee charged with finding a solution to the Lebanese crisis:

In view of the situation on the Lebanese scene, and given the Lebanese, Arab, and international urgings for the committee to continue its work, the tripartite committee foreign ministers will hold a meeting on Wednesday 13 September 1989 in Jeddah to assess the situation and see if it is possible to resume moves.

They will then convey the results of this assessment to their respective leaders.

Leaders Take Part in Interior Ministers Meeting

Egyptian Minister Arrives

JN0109192889 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 1 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Egyptian Interior Minister Zaki Badr arrived in Baghdad today, leading a delegation to participate in the meetings of the interior ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council states due to begin in Baghdad tomorrow, Saturday [2 September]. [passage omitted]

Saddam Receives Ministers

JN0209134489 Baghdad INA in English
1300 GMT 2 Sep 89

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 2, INA—President Saddam Husayn received this morning Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) interior ministers on the occasion of their presence in Baghdad to take part in the first meeting of the ACC interior ministers due to begin today.

The interior ministers conveyed to President Saddam Husayn greetings of the ACC member states' leaders. President Husayn asked them to convey his greetings to leaders of the council's member states.

The meeting was attended by Mr Samir Mohammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab, the Iraqi minister of interior.

Ministers Begin Meeting

JN0209152489 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 2 Sep 89

[Excerpts] The first meeting of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] interior ministers began in Baghdad today.

In his opening speech, Interior Minister Samir Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab said: The creation of the ACC is one of the formulas expressing the modern Arab mentality, which epitomizes the Arab awakening stage and its meanings of alertness, cooperation, unity of ranks, and serious planning for the future in order to reach the joint pan-Arab goals and interests in the economic, cultural, and security areas and to confront the dangers threatening Arab security and stability. [passage omitted]

The interior ministers will discuss an agenda including nine axes on achieving technical and vocational cooperation: exchanging information, expertise, training, meetings, consultations, and scientific research; holding conferences and symposiums; promoting public relations and social care; and organizing traffic affairs, civil status, and civil defense.

Ramadan Receives Ministers

JN0209191589 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 2 Sep 89

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, today received the Arab Cooperatiuon Council [ACC] interior ministers. During the meeting, Ramadan stressed that the ACC is moving in balanced and quick steps supported by all the vocational and popular sectors. He also said that there is a serious and extensive activity among the ACC officials, who are working as one team to achieve one goal; namely, serving the Arab nation.

Ramadan added that the ACC officials' determination to interpret its goals reflects the real belief in achieving that goal in high morale. The interior ministers also affirmed that supporting the march of the ACC is a collective responsibility, because its goals are aimed at serving the Arab nation. They also stressed that they will use all their capabilities to unify the formulas of work in the ACC countries in order to promote its march and pan-Arab goals.

Joint Cooperation Minutes Signed

JN0209185589 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1810 GMT 2 Sep 89

[Text] At the end of their first meeting today, the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] interior ministers signed the minutes of a joint cooperation among the ACC states. The minutes include means of action to achieve security coordination and cooperation in technical and scientific areas; to exchange information, expertise, and training; to organize traffic affairs, civil status, civil defense, and public relations. The minutes stipulate holding semiannual meetings, unifying proposals on issues of mutual interest to confront any activity against the ACC countries' security and interests; and exchanging security information about dangerous criminals and criminal gangs.

The minutes also stipulate cooperation to analyze major crimes and coordination to fight drugs, counterfeiting currency, marine and trade swindling, and economic

crimes and to adopt joint plans to confront international criminal phenomena. The minutes also stipulate the need to develop and promote training and technical insititions of the ACC countries; to facilitate the exchange of experts, trainees, and experience with regard to modern technology; and to increase the number of the free scholarships to allow as many students as possible to have a chance; and to hold scientific conferences and symposiums that deal with crimes in the ACC countries.

The minutes stress the need to unify positions on criminal and security issues at international and regional conferences, to exchange visits by sports teams, to hold sports festivals, and to exchange visits by students of colleges and private institutions of the internal security forces to acquaint themselves with the scientific training systems in them.

The minutes consider the driving licenses of the ACC states valid in each ACC country and stipulate the unification of ways to grant driving licenses to citizens in the ACC countries.

The minutes also stipulate unification of the civil data system and the registration numbers and issuance of identity cards in accordance with similar or unified frameworks to serve the ACC's future goals and promote civil defense in the four countries through extending assistance to the country that is exposed to disasters.

Egypt's Badr Departs 2 Sep

JN0209204089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1940 GMT 2 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 2 Sep (INA)—Egyptian Interior Minister Major General Zaki Badr left Baghdad today for his country after taking part in the Arab Cooperation Council interior ministers' meetings, which were concluded in Baghdad today. [passage omitted]

YAR Interior Minister Leaves

JN0309155389 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Sep (INA)—'Abdallah Husayn Barakat, minister of interior affairs of the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR], and his delegation left Baghdad today after participating in the meetings of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] countries' interior ministers which ended in Baghdad yesterday.

In a statement before his departure, the YAR interior minister praised the positive results of the meetings of the ACC interior ministers.

Palestinian Affairs

Faruq Qaddumi Interviewed by AL-MAJALLAH

PM0109160189 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 30 Aug-5 Sep 89 pp 22-23

[Interview by unidentified interviewer with Faruq Qaddumi, Palestinian "foreign minister" and Fatah Central Committee member and secretary, also identified by his nom de guerre Abu al-Lutf; date, place not given]

[Text] [Interviewer] The recent Fatah congress noticeably concentrated on organizational aspects rather than the political aspect. Was there an internal crisis before the congress and, if so, why?

[Qaddumi] We had not held a general congress for 9 years although the movement had grown and spread throughout the world and its cadres and leadership had increased considerably. So it was necessary to find the appropriate framework capable of absorbing these members and leaders which have emerged during those 9 years. It should also be noted that these years witnessed a dissident movement fabricated by known forces.

[Interviewer] Observing the results of the congress, we notice that you have for the first time created a new leadership body called the Political Bureau. Does this mean that Fatah has become a political party and given up being a national front embracing numerous Palestinian trends and views?

[Qaddumi] Naming a Political Bureau does not at all mean that we have become a political party, but in view of the movement's expansion and the current circumstances of the Palestinian cause we have to apply the principle of specialization and existence of a leadership devoted to day-to-day tasks and to the implementation of the Central Committee's decisions because the volume and forms of national action have increased.

[Interviewer] You have announced the establishment of a Palestinian state. There is the PLO which is the broad front. Is the purpose of these changes to make Fatah the ruling party in the state you have declared?

[Qaddumi] The truth is that Fatah is the backbone of the Palestinian revolution and in that sense, if you like, it is the main party shouldering the main responsibility but that does not mean that we are trying to take exclusive control. We have partners, namely the other organizations such as the Popular Front [PFLP], the Democratic Front [DFLP], the Arab Liberation Front [ALF], the Palestine Liberation Front [PLF], and the independents. All of them together form a broad front.

[Interviewer] Fatah's election results indicate that the senior "generals" were not so lucky. Does this mean that the new phase belongs to the nonmilitary?

[Qaddumi] First of all let me emphasize that if some of the military brothers from the Palestine National Liberation Army were not lucky it does not mean that the

congress ruled out the military aspect and armed struggle. The proof is that a number of the symbols of the first generation and senior military men are now members of the Central Committee, such as brothers Nasr Yusuf and Muhammad Jihad. Then there is brother 'Abbud who has been elected member of the Revolutionary Council. I believe that in making its choices, the congress took into consideration several factors related to the internal aspect of the movement such as the candidates' longevity in the organization and in the successive organizational bodies.

[Interviewer] Why was Yasir 'Arafat exempt from the elections? Was it because he is the president of the state of Palestine or were there other considerations dating back to the beginning and foundation of the revolution?

[Qaddumi] Abu 'Ammar ['Arafat] is the president of the Palestinian state and has been the commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution's forces for many years. He was chosen for that leading military post by the entire Palestinian resistance movement in the late sixties when we were still in Amman. He is the symbol of the Palestinian people and the Central Council elected him president of the state of Palestine. So he, in fact, was elected by the Palestinian people and therefore it would be inappropriate for a portion of the Palestinian people to subject him to another referendum.

[Interviewer] This is the era of perestroyka. Could the recent Fatah congress be seen as a step toward a "Palestinian perestroyka"?

[Qaddumi] For perestroyka to apply certain prerequisites must be fulfilled, such as the existence of a society with its political, cultural, economic, and health institutions, and such as people's exercise of sovereignty on their own national soil. This means that the PLO lacks many of these prerequisites that would enable it to rebuild in line with the perestroyka now prevailing in the Soviet Union and elsewhere.

[Interviewer] We keep hearing the slogan that the new blood in Fatah and the Palestinian revolution should reach all positions. There is a complaint that some officials in certain offices and organs have been in the same posts for many years. Why should not there be continuous change to avoid mistakes and benefit from the new blood?

[Qaddumi] The problem is not the length of time for that means more acquired experience. It must be pointed out here that, in relation to the directors of PLO offices, some friendly and fraternal states insist that this or that ambassador remain in their posts in these states. We have frequently tried to transfer some office directors only to be faced with a strong desire on the part of the states concerned that they remain in these same posts. On the other hand, we have to take into consideration the fact that transfers cost much money particularly as we have over 90 offices, embassies, and representatives throughout the world.

[Interviewer] The dialogue between you and the United States has reached a deadend and could collapse at any moment. What do the Americans want from you and what are you rejecting?

[Qaddumi] We must mention a basic fact before dwelling on that subject namely that, as far as we were concerned, the purpose of the dialogue was, to a large extent, to reach the American public opinion and wage an informational, diplomatic, and political battle inside the U.S. society. We do not believe that through the dialogue we could change the U.S. official position on the Palestinian question. What we are concentrating on and working for is development of the U.S. public opinion's approach to our cause. That is why we are continuously trying to intensify the situation in the occupied territory in an attempt to enlarge the circle of friends and win more allies.

[Interviewer] Does that mean that, as far as you are concerned, discontinuation of the dialogue with the United States is out of the question even if it continued to insist on the Israeli Government's election plan?

[Qaddumi] We will never be the cause of discontinuation of the dialogue. The dialogue could take long periods of time but out of determination to change the U.S. public opinion and to change the U.S. society's attitude to our cause, we will persist with the dialogue.

[Interviewer] Are there any channels of contacts between you and Washington, other than the current dialogue?

[Qaddumi] There are no official contact channels other than that, but there are channels of contact with the U.S. public opinion. They are nongovernment bodies and associations.

[Interviewer] What about Abu 'Ammar's visit to the United States? Do you intend to apply for a permit to allow him to attend the next UNGA session?

[Qaddumi] We have not discussed that matter yet. Perhaps we will discuss it in time.

[Interviewer] We have recently heard about messages exchanged between you and the Israeli Government. How true is that? Have there been direct or indirect contacts?

[Qaddumi] That is natural. The Israelis contact Egypt and, as is known, they have diplomatic relations with it. They also contact some Eastern, European and African states and discuss the situation in the Middle East with them. These states convey the Israeli views to us.

[Interviewer] Our question, specifically, is this: Have you recently received a message from Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin through Egypt?

[Qaddumi] I do not think that we have received any particular messages from the official Israeli side. I am sure and certain of that.

[Interviewer] It has recently been reported that you have prevented leaders inside the occupied territory from holding any contacts with the Israelis. How true is that?

[Qaddumi] We realize that our brothers inside are in a big prison where there is no possibility of a free dialogue. We also know that if any of these brothers is summoned to a meeting with any Israeli official he cannot refuse, because of military rule pressure and the threat of force.

[Interviewer] It has been rumored that the Americans have again raised the 10 points made by Egypt some time ago. Have you officially received these points?

[Qaddumi] We know of these points. That was an Egyptian initiative in the form of specific questions addressed to the Israeli Government. We believe that these points may be in harmony with the U.S. views which look for and concentrate on partial and peripheral matters. As known, the U.S. objective is the Israeli option in the peace process. That is a partial and restricting option which cannot possibly lead to comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

[Interviewer] Do you not believe that the Americans and Israelis have managed to shift the limelight from the Palestinian peace initiative approved by the Palestine National Council [PNC] to the election plan proposed by the Israeli Government?

[Qaddumi] Really, if that were true the EC would not have issued its latest statement in Madrid stressing for the first time the need for PLO participation, not just attendance, as a main party in the settlement, and Japan, an important industrial state, would not have issued a statement saying that the peace process in the Middle East was slow and that obstacles stood in the way. Last July he gathered his country's Middle East ambassadors in Cairo to announce that statement which emphasized the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the need for an international conference. This means that, with the exception of the United States, the world which had been aligned with Israel was not fooled by the Israeli election plan trick.

[Interviewer] The latest Arab summit conference formed a committee under the chairmanship of Moroccan King Hassan II to follow up developments related to the Palestinian question. What happened? Why has the committee not met so far?

[Qaddumi] The eruption in Lebanon has been the main obstacle in the way of that committee. As known, the tripartite committee which stemmed from the summit and consists of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd, Moroccan King Hassan II, and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid has made strenuous efforts to settle the Lebanese question but came to a dead end because of Syrian intransigence, so the situation has deteriorated further and became more tragic.

[Interviewer] The PLO has announced, through more than one Palestinian official, that it supports General Michel 'Awn on Lebanon. Does that not mean definite break with Syria and Iran?

[Qaddumi] Basically we are for a united, sovereign, and independent Lebanon and for expulsion of the occupation forces from it. We believe that Gen 'Awn is in a position of self-defense. He has not advanced to occupy other areas. It was the other forces, and particularly the Syrian forces, which shelled 'Awn's positions in the beginning.

[Interviewer] There is an attempt to internationalize the Lebanese crisis and it is feared that the world might begin talking about an international conference to settle the Lebanese question, not the Palestinian question.

[Qaddumi] That is true and the whole world, including all the Arabs, views what is happening in Lebanon with great concern. The Arab tripartite committee indicated the intransigent side very clearly and specifically.

[Interviewer] What is the situation between you and Syria?

[Qaddumi] Still frozen.

[Interviewer] What has become of Algeria's mediation?

[Qaddumi] Nothing new. There is a standstill because the Lebanese crisis has exploded everything and has led to the suspension of the Algerian mediation.

[Interviewer] How true are the claims that Washington has asked the PLO to help it on the question of the hostages in Lebanon?

[Qaddumi] To prevent further deterioration in Lebanon, brother Abu 'Ammar held contacts at various levels to stop the bloodshed, particularly of westerners, and he got guarantees from the parties concerned that there would be no more executions.

[Interviewer] What is meant by the parties concerned, Iran or Hizballah of Lebanon?

[Qaddumi] Both Iran and Hizballah.

[Interviewer] Will this mediation continue?

[Qaddumi] I said that was an initiative by Abu 'Ammar.

[Interviewer] What was the American response?

[Qaddumi] What Abu 'Ammar did was not addressed to the Americans. It was a purely humanitarian move. We helped American civilians in Beirut in the past although we knew in advance that the United States would offer nothing in return.

[Interviewer] A final question: Will an Arab summit be held soon?

[Qaddumi] The idea of a new Arab summit conference is there but no date has been set. It may be held. It should

be recalled that it was agreed to hold the ordinary summit conference early next year.

'Arafat Aide on U.S. Policy, Election Outlook

PM0509135689 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 30 Aug 89 p 6

[Unattributed interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat; place, date not given]

[Text] [Interviewer] The West Bank and Gaza Strip are witnessing a serious escalation of terror by the Israeli forces. What is your comment on that subject?

[Abu-Sharif] The escalation on the part of the Israeli occupation forces against the Palestinian people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is dangerous. This is so because organized terror against our people has led to hundreds of Palestinians being killed or wounded in the past 2 weeks. Such an escalation will cause nothing but more resistance to the occupation with a view to eliminating it. It also helps create bitterness among the Palestinians toward the official U.S. position which neither confronts that escalation nor defends Palestinian human rights, as the U.S. Administration does with regard to other regions and peoples.

This situation will lead the Palestinian people to feel more than ever that the international position, which is moving very slowly, cannot be relied on if it remains slow. All these matters will push the situation toward the brink of a volcano and drive the entire Middle East into a state of unrest, the repercussions of which are unknown.

[Interviewer] Speaking of the U.S. position, how would you assess the course of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, now that four rounds have been held since it was launched?

[Abu-Sharif] Since 15 December—that is, over 9 months of dialogue—matters have not progressed in a practical way, although the atmosphere created over that period has been positive, has brought about further understanding, and has produced a climate which we could call normal and through which the dialogue can be maintained.

As far as we are concerned, the dialogue with the United States is not an objective in itself. If some circles consider it an objective, we are not happy with such an assessment. We see the dialogue as a means of reaching common understanding on the need to apply human and international laws to the case of the Palestinian people and to Palestine, which has been occupied for 33 years.

With regard to the U.S. position on the military escalation, which stipulates—through President Bush—the need to end the Israeli occupation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, while stressing our support for that decision, we want practical steps, not just words. We want to have the right to self-determination like other peoples.

We want the United States to deal both equally and fairly with the parties to the conflict in the Middle East. So if the United States promises to work to end the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip within a set timetable, thus implementing what President Bush himself announced to President Husni Mubarak and Yitzhaq Shamir when they visited Washington—namely, that the United States wants to end the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip—then, if that promise is made, negotiations can be held and agreement can be reached on all other problems and ways of resolving them.

[Interviewer] What conditions do you propose for holding elections?

[Abu-Sharif] We are for elections as understood in democratic Western societies. We are for elections in the American way. We have no conditions other than that the Palestinian people choose their own leader and representatives to parliament, otherwise the talk about the elections would be just hot air. The elections are not an objective in themselves. They are a democratic method freely exercised to enable the people to elect their own representatives and legislative bodies. This is with the knowledge that our people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip have 186 seats in our parliament and can vote to elect them if that process is free, democratic, and guaranteed.

[Interviewer] You spoke about the military escalation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. What is the link between that and what is happening now in Lebanon?

[Abu-Sharif] What is happening in Lebanon is a crime about which it is impossible to remain silent. The situation demands that it be stopped, because it has several serious implications not only for Lebanon, but for the Arab nation as a whole. If the crime is not stopped now, the fire will spread to other parts of the Arab homeland.

This crime, which is being perpetrated by Israel on the one hand and different parties on the other, is designed to destroy Lebanon's constituents as a state, evacuate its people, and create sectarian areas that could extend to neighboring areas. Obviously stopping that escalation will not serve Israel, since it is escalating the operations of murder, arrest, and destruction within the occupied territories to coincide with the Syrian escalation in Lebanon. This is diverting attention from what is happening in the occupied territory. That escalation is also in line with the kidnapping of Shaykh 'Ubayd, which has caused the public and the media to focus on the hostage issue again, ignoring the crimes committed by Israeli against our people in the occupied territories. So how long will the Arabs remain silent about that crime?

[Interviewer] In your capacity as information adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, what will be the PLO's program for the coming months in view of current developments?

[Abu-Sharif] The PLO will continue its political and diplomatic activities at both international and regional levels. The programs include important visits which will open new political and economic horizons for the PLO, the Palestinian people, and the Palestinian intifadah [uprising]. We expect Europe in particular to play an important role in the last quarter of this year. We also expect Japan to play an active and influential role in the Middle East, both politically and economically, and to use its weight to help find a political solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. We also expect Baker and Shevardnadze to discuss in September the agenda of the Bush-Gorbachev summit, which will broach the Middle East problem as a prime regional problem which the two countries are seeking to resolve.

[Interviewer] During Fatah's Fifth General Congress we noted a kind of bitterness and disappointment on some participants' part with regard to U.S. interactions with the Palestinian political initiative, which could lead to extremism from the Palestinian side, and aspects of this have started to emerge. What is required to prevent such extremism?

[Abu-Sharif] The PLO's logic is fixed and was defined by the Palestine National Council [PNC] on 15 November last year. The initiative launched by Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], which is based on those resolutions, is not a seasonal initiative. It is a line and an approach which we will continue to pursue until the the occupation is eliminated and national independence is achieved. In its political statement Fatah's congress unreservedly supported and backed PNC resolutions and Brother Abu-'Ammar's initiative. As for the feeling of bitterness and disappointment about the Security Council's slow position, it is very natural. It is a genuine feeling because no practical steps have been taken to stop the Palestinian people's suffering and the operations of murder carried out daily by Israel or against Israel's intransigence and the Israeli Government's rejection of all peace initiatives.

[Interviewer] There have been reports of the possibility of arranging a meeting between Abu-'Ammar and John Major, the new British foreign secretary, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session in September. What truth is there in this?

[Abu-Sharif] Palestinian-British relations have developed considerably, significantly, and positively over the past 9 months. My recent meeting with Geoffrey Howe in London opened a new stage in British-Palestinian relations. And I am certain that relations will continue to develop until the British position reaches the level of Britain's vote on Resolution 181, namely, commitment to a two-state solution on Palestine's territory—that is, a Palestinian state alongside an Israeli state. I have sent an invitation to the British secretary, and we confirm that President Abu-'Ammar will be pleased to receive the British foreign secretary in Tunis or anywhere else.

PLO Official Cited on Message From Shamir

PM0609150589 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 1 Sep 89 pp 1, 9

[Khalid al-Matrafi report: "Palestinian Official Tells AL-MADINAH: Message From Shamir To PLO"]

[Excerpt] A high-ranking Palestinian official has confirmed that the Israeli enemy's prime minister, Yitzhaq Shamir, sent a message to the PLO concerning the elections proposed by Shamir for the occupied territories.

The official pointed out that the message was conveyed to Tunis by Palestinian lawyer Jamil Tarifah [as published] as requested by Shamir and approved by the PLO. Lawyer Tarifah, who is a member in the "Truth and Justice Society" in Ramallah, said that the message contained the plan for electio is in the occupied territories and the possibility of development so as to become a step toward a final solution of the Palestinian problem. He added that the message also contained Shamir's attempt to ease conditions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rubbuh recently stated that the Zionist war minister, Yitzhaq Rabin, had sent three messages to the PLO leadership in 6 months.

In his statement to AL-MADINAH Jamil Tarifah said that the evident Israeli rigidity reflects the Zionist entity's failure to circumvent the intifadah [uprising]. He said that a solution to the dilemma can only be achieved by withdrawing the occupation forces from the Arab territories and recognizing the Palestinian state. [passage omitted]

Group Claims Killing of Israeli Tax Collector

JN0109113089 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 1 Sep 89

[Text] In the occupied Palestinian territory, the Popular Resistance Front [Jabhat al-Muqawamah al-Sha'biyah]—martyr Yasir Abu-Ghawsh's group—has claimed responsibility for killing the Israeli tax official Gid'on Zaqen, who died yesterday of injuries he received when a firebomb was hurled at his car in Ramallah on 14 August. The Front's statement added that two of the car's four occupants were injured, one of whom died yesterday. The other's condition is described as extremely serious.

Algeria

Mubarak To Pay Working Visit to Algeria 7 Sep

LD0609203989 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Excerpt] A statement by the presidency of the republic announced today that in response to an invitation by the president of the Republic, Chadli Bendjedid, Mr Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt and current chairman of the OAU, will carry out, as from tomorrow—Thursday—a friendly and working visit to Algeria. [passage omitted]

Bendjedid Returns From Nonaligned Conference

LD0609141789 Algiers APS in English 1326 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Text] Algiers, 6 September (APS)—President Chadli Bendjedid is back to Algiers coming from Belgrade where he attended works of the 9th nonaligned countries summit.

Egypt

No Iraqis Reported Admitted to Hospitals

NC0609144989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, 6 Sep (MENA)—The MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY military editor has learned that Egyptian military hospitals have not received any injured people from Iraq and that they have no records of any injured people who came from Baghdad to be treated in these hospitals.

The British paper THE INDEPENDENT reported that an explosion took place in a military industrial complex south of Baghdad last month. The paper also cited what it termed Egyptian sources saying that the al-Ma'adi military hospital has received some who were injured in this explosion and that this hospital was closed to ordinary patients for 2 weeks.

Spokesman 'Not Aware' of Blast

NC0609190689 Paris AFP in English 1811 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, Sep 6 (AFP)—A spokesman for the Egyptian Defense Ministry denied Wednesday that Egyptian workers had been killed in a massive explosion which reportedly took place last month at an Iraqi military-industrial complex.

Colonel Naji al-Tuhami also told reporters he was not aware that such a blast took place and that he heard of it by reading the foreign press.

The London daily THE INDEPENDENT, quoting diplomats and other sources, reported Wednesday that about 700 people, including Egyptian engineers and technicians, were killed on August 17 near Al-Hillah, south of Baghdad. [passage omitted]

4 More Communist Party Defendants Released

NC0609133489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1215 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, 6 Sept (MENA)—Counselor 'Abd-al-Majid Mahmud, senior public attorney of the Supreme State Security Prosecution Office, today announced the release of four of the defendants in the case of the Egyptian Communist Workers Party Organization. The defendants are 'Adil Ahmad al-Maliji, Ibrahim Hasan al-Husayni, Sayyid 'Abd-al-Radi Khalifah, and Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hamid Faraj.

The prosecution office also decided to keep defendant 'Imad-al-Din Muhammad 'Atiyah in custody for 15 days for further interrogation.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Gives 'Fiery' Interview on Arabs

LD0509062589 Tehran IRNA in English 0535 GMT 5 Sep 89

[Text] Athens, Sep 5, IRNA—In a fiery interview with an Arab weekly Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi lashed out at Arab leaders for making concessions to Israel and said the intifidah [uprising] will spread to other Arab countries.

In an 11-page interview with AL-MOUKIF AL-'ARABI, published in Nicosia Monday, Al-Qadhdhafi said the "Palestinian state was merely a fantasy which has no existence." He said only Israelis have profited by the PLO recognition of Israel last year.

"The result is that there is no Palestinian state, but only an Israeli state," Al-Qadhdhafi stressed.

The Libyan leader said the Arabs had recognized Israel under orders from the U.S.

"The Arabs recognized it (Israel) in the Casablanca (Arab summit), except Libya. It was under orders from America that Arabs should meet in this weak position so that they may offer more concessions."

Referring to the intifadah in occupied Palestine Al-Qadhdhafi said 'Arafat and other Palestinians have no real idea about it. "Yasir 'Arafat or any other Palestinian when he talks about intifadah he is riding the waves," he said.

Al-Qadhdhafi described the recent unrest in Jordan as "intifadah" which was influenced by the uprising in the West Bank.

Several people were killed in clashes between citizens and the army in several south Jordanian towns last April in protest over transport price hike.

Al-Qadhdhafi said the "intifadah will be repeated" in Jordan.

"I expect the revolution of stones will spread and that children will stone the cars of the Arab rulers as a beginning of people's uprising," the Libyan leader said.

He ruled out restoration of ties with Egypt so long Cairo maintained diplomatic links with the Zionist state.

"We want the destruction of the enemy. There is no change in our position," Al-Qadhdhafi emphasized, rejecting rumors that Tripoli was adopting a more conciliatory attitude towards the Camp David treaty.

Asked when he will visit Cairo, he replied it would be difficult to visit it so long the Israeli Embassy was there. "I shall visit Cairo when it is liberated," he added.

Al-Qadhdhafi said Husni Mubarak told him that Israel will be finished through peace. "Hence we agree that the enemy must be finished. We differ only on the means," he replied to Mubarak.

Referring to Lebanon Al-Qadhdhafi said the basic problem there was due to Arab Muslim and Arab Christian.

"The mistake is due to the presence of Arab Christians. An Arab must not be a Christian. The basic call of Islam is that Arabs must be Muslims. Arabs must fight against each other till they adopt Islam," he said.

Al-Qadhdhafi said what was taking place in Lebanon today could be repeated in Egypt, Syria and Iraq because there were Arabs who were non-Muslims.

"As for non-Arab Christians and non-Arab kuffar (non believers) there is no Jihad against them," he said.

Al-Qadhdhafi said in his "revolutionary, not political, opinion," he wished that a Lebanon-type civil war would take place all over the Arab world to get rid of these artificial maps to achieve a strong unity.

Al-Qadhdhafi Returns to Libya From Belgrade

LD0609191489 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1850 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 6 Sep (JANA)—The brother leader of the internationalist Fatah revolution returned to the Great Jamahiriyah this afternoon after taking part in the work of the ninth summit session of the Nonaligned Movement in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. [passage omitted]

Leaders Depart Following Anniversary Activities

'Arafat, Delegation Depart 2 Sep

LD0209125189 Tripoli JANA in English 0907 GMT 2 Sep 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Fatih [September] 2, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Yasir 'Arafat and the delegation in his company left early today Tripoli after taking part in the celebrations of the Libyan Arab people marking the 20th anniversary of the Great Al-Fatih revolution.

Sudan's Al-Bashir Leaves

LD0309105189 Tripoli JANA in English 0802 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Fatih [September] 3, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, the president of the Sudanese Revolutionary Council, left yesterday afternoon Tripoli after taking part in the celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the great al-Fatih revolution.

An official farewell ceremony was mounted for General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir headed by Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir.

General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir made a statement to JANA before he left Tripoli international airport. He said "relations linking Jamahirah and Sudan are eternal. We are marching on the path of more than that and these relations did not change perhaps since the establishment of the Sudanese state and developed in a special manner since the coming of the great al-Fatih revolution in Libya as relations became well defined and documented strong relations between the Arab people within the two countries between being so between governments. [no end quotes as received]

He added "relationship between the Arab people in Sudan and Jamahiryah existed even during the most difficult times when ties were severed and as a matter of fact the Sudanese nationals were always treated well. [no end quotes as received]

He said "it was a suprise to us when we found the whole Libyan Arab people gather to celebrate this occasion and happy and the biggest surprise was the armed people which surprised those present and gave the feeling that the Libyan Arab people is earnest in protecting and defending its revolution. [no end quotes as received]

King Hassan Leaves 2 Sep

LD0209124589 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 2 Sep 89

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Hassan II left Tripoli early this morning after attending the Libyan Jamahiriyah's celebration of the 20th anniversary of the 1 September revolution. Our radio mission in Tripoli reports:

His Majesty King Hassan II, may God render him victorious, completed his blessed visit to Splaj at the invitation of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to attend the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the 1 September revolution by the fraternal Libyan people.

The royal ship Marrakech left Tripoli harbor at about 0400 local Libyan time, corresponding to 0200 Morocco [GMT] time. [passage omitted]

Iranian Delegation Departs

LD0509153589 Tehran IRNA in English 1425 GMT 5 Sep 89

[Text] Tripoli, Sept 5, IRNA—An Iranian delegation led by Majlis Deputy Sadeq Khalkhali here to take part in the 20th anniversary of the Libyan revolution, left here Monday. The delegation was seen off by Libyan minister of communications and marine transport.

In an interview before departure, Khalkhali expressed pleasure with his meetings with the Libyan officials. "We had two meetings with Major Jallud during which President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's letter to Libyan leader Col al-Qadhdhafi was submitted."

Al-Qadhdhafi is in Belgrade to participate in the ninth non-aligned summit meet which started Monday. Important regional subjects and issues of the Islamic world were discussed during the meetings, he said.

Khalkhali was accompanied by three Majlis deputies and four representatives from the Foreign and Islamic Culture and Guidance Ministries.

Hassan Gives Message of Thanks to Al-Qadhdhafi

LD0409140389 Rabat MAP in English 1200 GMT 4 Sep 89

[Text] Rabat, Sep 4, (MAP)—At the end of the two day visit to Libya where he attended the festivities marking the 20th anniversary of the Libyan revolution, King Hassan II of Morocco addressed Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi a message in which the sovereign expressed thanks "for the Arab and authentic hospitality and for the warm welcome we were met with".

"The Libyan people has expressed deep feelings of brotherhood it has for the Moroccan people. These are feelings showing faith in a common destiny and common expectations", the message added.

"We wanted the participation of Morocco in this great event be of particular nature through attending it personally accompanied by their highnesses the princes, members of the cabinet and representatives of all political parties", it went on.

"We ordered that the royal armed forces partake in the great procession which took place at the end of the ceremonies commemorating the 20th anniversary of September 1st", the message said adding that "we have been acquainted with the accomplishments made by the Libyan people in different fields".

Mauritania

Burkina Faso's Campaore Pays Official Visit

LD3008223189 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Captain Blaise Compaore, chairman of the Popular Front and president of Burkina Faso, arrived this evening in Nouakchott for an official visit to our country. The Burkinabi president, who is accompanied by an important delegation, was welcomed by the steps of the plane by Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state, who was surrounded by the accompanying Mauritanian delegation. [passage omitted]

Leaves for Libya 31 Aug

AB0109162389 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Text] Head of State Captain Blaise Compaore, who flew to Nouakchott yesterday, left Mauritania this afternoon for Tripoli, where he will attend the festivities marking the 20th anniversary of the Libyan Revolution. A joint communique was issued to mark the end of Compaore's visit, which enabled Nouakchott and Ouagadougou to strengthen bilateral cooperation.

Traore Message on Senegal River Group Revealed

AB0309110089 Paris AFP in French 1857 GMT 2 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Nouakchott, 2 Sep (AFP)—The Malian president, Moussa Traore, has called for "tolerance and moderation" in his answer to the request made last week by Mauritania for the transfer of the headquarters of the Senegal River Development Organization [OMVS] from Dakar to Bamako. This was disclosed today to AFP by Mr Amadou Deme, the Malian minister of industry, water resources, and energy. Mr Deme, who was thus revealing the contents of a message by President Moussa Traore that he had just delivered in Nouakchott to the Mauritanian head of state, Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, stated that, according to the Malian president, the transfer of the OMVS head office "can only be effected after a unanimous decision by the leaders of the three member states of the organization," (Mauritania, Mali, Senegal). The Malian minister, who is also the current chairman of the OMVS Ministerial Council, also stated that President Traore was of the view that "the OMVS must be dissociated from the problems that might arise between two of its members." No matter how serious these problems are, they can only be temporary and situational, Mr Deme further added, still giving the position of the Malian president who, he said, has asked Mauritania "to consider this situation with tolerance." [passage omitted]

The Malian minister, who was accompanied by the OMVS high commissioner, Mr Ahmed Mohamed Ag Hamani (Mali), announced that a glimmer of hope was already perceptible," adding that, in the prospect of finding a solution, practical steps would be taken in reply to Mauritania's concern that the security of its nationals working at the organization's headquarters be guaranteed.

For his part, the high commissioner told AFP that 6 out of the 10 Mauritanians employed by the OMVS continue

to work in Dakar and that the 4 others, including the organization's secretary general, had returned to Nouakchott after last April's bloody incidents, but that they continue to be associated with the organizations missions. He assured that "the OMVS currently works without any difficulties."

Answering a question on the construction of the dam on the right bank of the river (Mauritanian side), Mr Ag Hamani said work has currently stopped because of the rainy season, but will resume after the rains. He was of the view that a solution will certainly be found for the 50 Senegalese workers who left the worksites of the dam during last April's incidents. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Al-Bashir on Domestic Issues, Regional Ties

PM0609114289 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Sep 89 p 3

[Interview with Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Command Council of the Revolution for National Salvation in Sudan, by Imam Muhammad Imam in Khartoum; date not given]

[Text] [Imam] The problem of the south is one that Sudan has suffered since independence. So what efforts has the National Salvation Revolution made to stop the continuing civil war and reach signs of agreement with the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] within the framework of your endeavors to work for security and peace in south Sudan?

[Al-Bashir] I think you have made a successful start to the interview by talking about the problem of the south. I say this because the problem of the south is our main problem, and we are working earnestly to resolve it.

The problem started long ago and has continued since independence. During that time it has experienced calm and active phases. But the recent stage of the sectarian political parties' governments exacerbated the problem, and conditions in Sudan were about to deteriorate and lead to the fragmentation of united Sudan as a result of the extension of the problem of the south northward. This came in addition to other conditions coinciding with it in Darfur, the Nubian Mountains, and the southern Blue Nile region.

Since its inception the revolution has devoted special attention to the problem of the south, and we have started to make serious moves to open a new chapter and prepare the climate for dialogue. We maintained a cease-fire for a month and issued a general amnesty for all those who carried arms against the government. To maintain that atmosphere we extended the cease-fire for another month. And this week we have extended it for another month to end 30 September. The objective of all this is to prepare the atmosphere for conducting the dialogue. We have made tireless efforts with the brothers in the neighboring states to sit down and negotiate with the SPLM. We declared our belief that the problem of the south can only be resolved by dialogue. The movement accepted that principle; a delegation was formed in Sudan; and the two delegations met in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa.

We believe that a considerable amount has been achieved. I say this because the two sides agreed to continue the dialogue in order to reach a just solution to the people's cause through the Sudanese Embassy in Addis Ababa. We also agreed to continue the relief operations in the south of the country, and to have both sides work to protect them.

[Imam] The September 1983 laws still constitute an obstacle to the negotiations which the government is conducting with the SPLM. In the early days of the National Salvation Revolution you announced your intention to hold a popular referendum on these laws. Do you still maintain that view, or do you have a new proposal on that matter?

[Al-Bashir] Actually, since the outset, we have said that these laws are subject to discussion and negotiations with a view to defining the relationship between religion and politics. The matter is still at the negotiation stage. It is now being broached at the bargaining table. As for the talk about a popular referendum on these laws, it will be the last option if we reach no agreement.

The question is still being raised for negotiation, since we have our own opinion of it, and so does the SPLM. God willing, we will reach agreement on many issues.

[Imam] What policies has the National Salvation Revolution pursued to remedy the defective economic situation? Are any decisions envisaged to attract expatriates' savings and involve them in the plan to rebuild the Sudanese economy? With regard to investment, is there a plan to reconsider the investment laws and restore the Arab and foreign investors' confidence in the state's investment programs?

[Al-Bashir] When we assumed power in this country 30 June we found that corruption had spread through the fields of economic action in Sudan. So we promptly declared war on that corruption and we fought the black market, smuggling operations, and currency trading. We believe that these measures have achieved major success. The proof of this is the stabilization of commodity prices and the recovery of the Sudanese pound's strength against the dollar, since it was devalued by about 45 percent in the free market. Sudanese banks have secured some $100 million, and this figure was never achieved under the former regime. In fact over the 9 months prior to 30 June not a single dollar was accrued to the free exchange market. I believe that these policies have been successfully achieved in the expatriates field, since they are a major group with considerable economic influence. They participate effectively in the Sudanese economy. Thus they have become a major group to which the revolution must devote special attention, not only to

attract their savings, but to care about them as a social force and provide all guarantees for them, since they represent a group of Sudanese citizens.

This is why we were eager to hold a special conference for them. Committees have been formed by them to look into all the anxieties and problems to which they are exposed and to define their contribution to building the Sudanese economy. And, praise God, these committees have to make decisions to provide guarantees for the expatriates, link them with their mother homeland, and obtain from their savings useful revenue for the state.

We are drawing up new economic policies which will be announced soon, God willing. We are also working to draw up a new investment law, and we will ensure that it attracts local investment as well as Arab and foreign investment. Surely the expatriate brothers will have a major role in all the investment projects which we will introduce to them so that they will be financed by them and run by us.

[Imam] When do you think normal life will return to Khartoum, and when will the curfew be lifted?

[Al-Bashir] First, the measures currently applied in the national capital are precautionary security measures. This is because the revolution is still young and there are enemies lying in wait for it. Some of the actions hostile to the revolution still have not crystallized. But at this stage we have been eager to secure it, and you can see this in the presence of tank forces in some positions. As for the curfew, it can also be described as protection for the new situation. It is also a kind of security, because the citizens' security inside the Khartoum area was under a considerable threat. So the main aim of the curfew measures is to fight or reduce crime in the city of Khartoum. Of course every new regime reduces curfew periods or lifts the curfew according to the requirements of the situation.

[Imam] What has happened to the the political prisoners? Has there been any mediation between you and internal or external quarters with a view to their release, or will they be brought to trial shortly?

[Al-Bashir] With regard to mediation, there has been no mediation—internal or external—with a view to freeing political prisoners in Sudan. In fact committees of inquiry are interrogating political prisoners, and in the light of the results of these investigations, those whom we feel do not pose a threat to the situation will be released. As for those found guilty, they will be brought to trial.

[Imam] Are any attempts being made to legalize [taqnin] the relationship between the Command Council of the National Salvation Revolution and the unions in order to satisfy the principle of people's participation, or do you have a different conception of people's political participation?

[Al-Bashir] People's participation is probably one of the revolution's most important objectives. I say this because we are anxious for there to be people's participation characterized by effectiveness and for it to play a role in leading public life in the country. A few days ago we announced the decision to allow unions to return in the form of preliminary committees to run union affairs until we draft a new law for unions and industrial work and production relations. Then these preliminary committees will be dissolved and elections will be held to form unions according to the new laws.

As for people's participation, we are in the process of establishing people's salvation committees which will play a clear role and participate substantially in all fields. They will not be confined to supply and services committees alone. They will participate in all fields of national activity. They will include committees on security, the economy, education, health, supply, youth, sports, and women. These committees will be responsible for planning and administration in all aspects relating to citizens' lives.

One of the revolution's most important aims is to enlighten Sudanese citizens. This is why we are talking about political sectarianism, and we know that political sectarianism can only thrive in one climate, namely, that of ignorance. So if we want to fight it, we must fight by enlightening citizens. We are drawing up a comprehensive education policy because we believe that present education curricula do not match our aspirations. This is why we are proposing a comprehensive education policy to change and replace present curricula. We will also work to draw up a complete program for the elimination of illiteracy. The state, the people's salvation committees, student unions, and youth organizations—which will be formed according to new laws—will take part in this. There will be a major campaign to enlighten citizens, through the media, the various educational curricula at school, and the committees for the elimination of illiteracy.

[Imam] What were the grounds for the dismissal of certain military and civilian leaders, and is there any possibility of reconsidering those decisions?

[Al-Bashir] With regard to the dismissals, as I said, they included various sectors of the armed forces. For instance, as far as dismissals of officers are concerned, they were of two kinds: First, having chosen a new armed forces command, we believe that it can lead the armed forces and work to develop them quickly. Military command is always based on seniority. So the older officers of the command in question were retired because others had reached command positions by virtue of their seniority. As for the officers dismissed, we know that they included some excellent and highly capable people, and they have been classified to ensure the most benefit from them in various fields, whether in running establishments or even educational institutions within the armed forces.

As for the second kind, they were dismissed for other reasons, all of which are nonpolitical and concern work and rehabilitation in the armed forces.

As for those dismissed from the police leadership, that was done by a committee formed last December to appraise all police officers. Its recommendations were referred to the bodies responsible for retiring off some and not others according to their performance in the service.

[Imam] Revolutions supercede what preceded them. So how can you make decisions on the basis of an appraisal conducted by committees that worked under the former regime?

[Al-Bashir] Certainly the appraisal was not conducted on a political basis. The committee was formed to conduct a professional appraisal according to the police commanders' performance, general conduct, and purely professional matters that had nothing to do with political work. This is why we had no objection to working according to that committee's recommendations. As for the civil servants, they were dismissed for the same reasons for which police commanders were dismissed. These can be summed up as matters of competence, ability, and efficiency. This is because some of them ceased to be effective, or their performance was not of the required standard. The standard of the civil service was low, which is why we tried to clean it up and revitalize it.

[Imam] How beneficial have been the consultations conducted by the political committee of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council with some public figures to consolidate the National Salvation Revolution's political program?

[Al-Bashir] With regard to the political committee's dialogues, they included nearly all tendencies—politicians, media officials, union leaders, and journalists—so as to crystallize the type of participation and benefit from these people's views, which we believe can help us in making decisions concerning the press, the media, future people's participation, the problem of the south, and educational and other problems. At the end the political committee will deliver to us reports on these dialogues and the views explored with those figures.

[Imam] Sudan's foreign relations with many fraternal and friendly countries have experienced some coolness. How far have you succeeded in restoring these relations to their normal status and in working to strengthen them?

[Al-Bashir] With regard to foreign policy, the National Salvation Revolution found Sudan completely isolated in the Arab and African worlds. So we started our contacts and sent delegations in all directions and managed to restore Sudan's relations to their normal status, gaining a better image with many states. We now enjoy very cordial relations with the Arab and African brothers and the other states of the world. As for the visits I made, they included one to Addis Ababa to attend the OAU conference, which provided a good opportunity to acquaint people with the change that has taken place in Sudan. I was surprised to find that all the African leaders' information was derived from the rebel movement, and the government of the sectarian political parties made no efforts to correct that information. Then I recently visited fraternal Iraq to improve relations and restore trust. A great deal of support has been provided in all fields, including economic and military aid. This came in addition to working to coordinate positions in regional and international forums.

[Imam] How do you view Sudanese-Saudi relations, especially after your recent visit to Saudi Arabia?

[Al-Bashir] First, I would like to commend the role of King Fahd, the custodian of the two holy mosques, and his kind stances toward Sudan's problems. In fact they are the stances of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. As I have said in previous statements, since the Arabian Peninsula was unified by the late King 'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi Arabia's stances have been supportive of Sudan. King Fahd has backed and supported Sudan with great skill. This is all because of his understanding of the special relations that bind the Saudi and Sudanese peoples.

At a recent meeting with the custodian of the two holy mosques, my plan was to explain to him conditions in Sudan. When I started to talk about Sudan's problems I discovered that he was fully acquainted with Sudan's problems and their details. We thank him for these generous feelings toward Sudan, and we thank the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its stances in support of Sudan. Our frequent visits to the Kingdom are for consultations, because we have found great interest in conditions in Sudan. This is why we must brief our brothers in Saudi Arabia on new developments in Sudan and consult with them on everything we are planning to do. We must do this because we have encountered attention and care from the king and people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Government Said To Be 'In Touch' With Rebels

EA0509183489 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1044 GMT 5 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 5 Sep (SUNA)— Staff Brigadier al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the National Salvation Revolutionary Command Council [NSRCC], has announced that the government's negotiating team is in touch with Garang's movement over the date for the next round of talks between them. In a statement published in AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH, he repeated that the revolution is serious about peace since it regards peace as the only way out. He said channels of communication between the government and the movement are open. [passage omitted]

Lagu Opens North-South Dialogue Meeting

EA0609211189 Omdurman Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Text] A [word indistinct] (?move) has started among the Sudanese [word indistinct] (?asking) views, ideas and opinions on the various issues of peace in the Sudan, and in this respect a national dialogue conference will [words indistinct] early next week. Towards this direction, a gathering was held in Khartoum (?this) [word indistinct] in which a number of southerners and northerners exchanged introductory speeches on the peace issue, and Lieutenant General Joseph Lagu [retired], who was sponsoring the meeting, had this to say to the gathering as an introduction to the meeting:

[Begin Lagu recording] The purpose of this gathering, brothers and sisters, is to start to consult each other as to what to do and talk about in the preparations towards settling the complex crisis now facing our dear country, the Sudan, particularly the southern portion of it. How much we might have differed in the past, and still differ even now over certain issues. We have problems that we cannot avoid and run away from. Those problems require us to think together in order to resolve them. We have talked somewhere, sometime, and someone has to say they (?listened), that [words indistinct] (?what would) happen. Hence my decision to call for this gathering. The reunion of brothers and sisters, a reunion of former colleagues: If you look around, you will recognize that you have been looking at one another here or there. From now on, dear compatriots, [word indistinct] (?has) been our formal concern to fulfill (?these, our functions) so that we can advance the new move towards peace. Our people are in a very desperate need for peace. Anywhere you go, people talk of peace.

When will peace come? What is happening? What role are you playing? These are the questions people ask as one goes around. Our people need peace. Let us all put our minds and our energies together to provide peace that our people badly need, and if peace talks make progress in the near future there is therefore need to attain some understanding among those of us southern Sudanese—we've (?seen) the Sudan—what do we want? What are our people fighting for? How much do we agree among ourselves, we southern Sudanese? And how much do we get in ideas and advices [as heard] from our northern compatriots that sympathize with us, at least [words indistinct] the suffering now going on amongst our people in southern Sudan?

Let us therefore (?talk) and (?fill in) towards one another how much we might have given the (?south), how much [words indistinct] dislike one another. Our destiny is one and our fate is one. We must learn to work together and face these common problems together. They require us to keep in touch. [end recording]

Garang 'Ready To Negotiate' With Government

LD0509130589 Kuwait KUNA in English 1118 GMT 5 Sep 89

[Text] Kuwait, Sept 5 (KUNA)—Leader of the rebel movement in southern Sudan John Garang was quoted here as saying that he is ready to negotiate with the Sudanese Government to solve the current dispute. Garang told daily AL-ANBA' published here today that "anytime Khartoum wants us to meet, we are ready."

On the outcome of the last peace negotiations with the Sudanese Government, the head of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Sudan said that the new leadership suggests no new program, but they came to us with a mechanism to implement their own program. We are still ready for talks.

He added that the new government asked his movement to cease fire, to continue salvation operations, and to halt our media campaign.

Regarding his movement's aim, Garang said that "we look [words indistinct] Sudan based on new principles and able to take its natural position among other states."

As far as his movement's rejection to participate in the previous governments, he said that his objection was based on democratic and constitutional reasons, therefore, there was no way for his popular movement to participate.

Accusing sectarian leaders and army officers of destroying democracy in his country, Garan described them as dictators.

He noted that Libya was the only state which supported his movement militarily and financially.

He denied receiving any support from the Soviet Union or the U.S. and indicated that he had sent delegations to Egypt and a number of Arab states to revive diplomatic activities.

Garang Reportedly To Declare Southern Government

JN0609124289 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo—The Egyptian AL-AHALI newspaper, an organ of the leftist opposition party the Nationalist Progressive Unionist Party, said in its issue published today that Colonel John Garang, chief of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, intends to declare a government in southern Sudan because he thinks that the current authorities in Khartoum do not represent the whole country. This is according to the mentioned newspaper, which did not specify the source of this information.

SPLA Official Discusses Addis Ababa Talks

E.40309222089 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Interview with Sudanese People's Liberation Movement official Dr Mansur Khalid by unidentified reporter; date, place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Dr Mansur, you were in the SPLM/SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army] committee which met with the committee of the junta for the first time in in Addis Ababa recently. Can you shed more light on your discussions?

[Khalid] Well, as you recall, we described in the communique that came out after the meeting that the discussions were frank and serious. And that term really refers to the fact that we were able to know each other well and, in a sense, we were able to see the representatives of the Khartoum Government for what they really are, as Muslim fundamentalists, though I use the term with a bit of misgiving, because a fundamentalist is somebody who is perhaps sincere to do good and, as Dr John Garang has said in his statement, there is nothing—you know—fundamentalist about the Islamic movement in the Sudan, because it is not respectful of the roots of Islam in the Sudan, of the traditions of tolerant religious ecumenical harmony.

In fact, they are an excessive group, who are trying to impose their political and religious agenda upon the Sudanese. So, in a sense, the meeting we had enabled us to see that there is definitely a very clear tendency on the part of this government in support of this Islamic fundamentalism, if I may use the term with the qualifications I used. And the other thing is our realization that there is a clash of not only of concept but of (?policy). For example, we have said and re-said that the problem we are facing is a problem of all Sudan. It is not a problem of a region—that is the southern region. And this is not a question of semantics. It is more than that, because the issues at stake are issues relating to the structure of rule in the Sudan. They are relating to the identity of the Sudanese people.

They are relating to the way politics was carried since independence, and all those issues reflect not only on the center but also on the regions. Among the other things, of course, that came up in the meeting, since you are asking me about the meeting, is the reference to the Addis Ababa agreement and the team from Khartoum representing the junta were so much [words indistinct] the experience of Addis Ababa saying that: Why don't we repeat that? And in a sense they have seemingly come to Addis with the idea of having a quick fix—another Addis Ababa agreement.

And it is ironic for a man like myself, who was sitting on the side of the government during the Addis Ababa negotiations, to say that the situation was farcical, and it was farcical because there there was a lot of water that has run under the bridge since Addis Ababa. There is a fundamental change and it looks as if those who were trying to unravel the situation did not care to read anything about what the movement stands for, nor really about the changes that have taken place in the Sudan.

For one thing John Garang is not a Joseph Lagu [vice-president until 9 Apr 1985]. He was not a man who was standing for separation. He was not the man who stood for the problems or aspirations of a limited region in the country. On the contrary, he believes that even the problems in that region can only be solved and resolved within the concept of a resolution of the national issues. On the other hand, the SPLM is not the Anyanya. It is not a force drawn from one region. Even if the SPLA, for historical and geographic reasons, has a predominance of men from the southern region, there are also other regions who are represented and increasingly so from central Sudan, people from the Nubah Mountains, people from Upper River Nile, and the war is no longer limited to just one geographic zone. I mean all those realities should have been understood.

Both the political realities, the geographic realities, the strategic realities which make the Addis Ababa (?meeting) a nonstarter in any discussion [sentence as heard].

[Reporter] Since you are a highly experienced political intellectual who has held several ministerial posts in the Sudan in the past and, as you put it, you were at one time on the government side to negotiate the Addis Ababa peace agreement, what is your analysis of the junta?

[Khalid] Well, I think we have to analyze the junta in the light of the experiences gained in the last 30 years. I mean, the Sudan since independence has been oscillating between two types of political regimes. One is a pseudo-liberal democracy. It is a [word indistinct] system of government masquerading or clad in the garb of liberalism, and the second is a military or semimilitary regime. And if you look at the history or [words indistinct] you will find that the pseudo-liberal democracy which has been condemned by the military, which we also condemned for different reasons, ruled the country for less time than the military and the semimilitary. So, for anybody to think that the solution of the problem in the Sudan can be found by just a bunch of soldiers, you know, rolling the tanks, you know, and conquering power, I think that is silly and I think that is senseless. And in fact, anybody who hasn't learned, you know, the lesson or the lessons of the past may have to reread the history of those 30 years—call themselves salvationists or otherwise.

On the other hand, if the group which assumes power does this with the intention of imposing on the nation an ideological agenda, that makes the situation even worse, because given the multiplicity in the Sudan—the cultural multiplicity—there is absolutely no way for any political system to survive in the Sudan unless if that system is sufficiently pluralistic in a way that it will accommodate the different cultures and schools of thought.

And what is more serious about what is happening in Khartoum today is that the military who assumed power have chosen to align themselves with a group that is known for its bigotry and which was almost politically ostracized by the nation. And it is (?known) that what has been accomplished by the patriotic and democratic forces of the nation were lost this year when all the political forces, including the trade unions and including parties that are of regional origin, including also the Army, agreed on a political agenda to bring peace and stability to the country.

The only group that was conspicuous by its absence was the NIF [National Islamic Front] and it is particularly this group which has been alienated by the whole nation, or rather they alienated themselves from the whole nation. It is the group that is providing now the intellectual force to the present regime. And in that sense what we have really is a condemned regime and it is simply a matter of days for that regime.

[Reporter] One of the questions in Sudan now is the question of the identity. The SPLM/SPLA leader in some of his public speeches said the Sudan is still looking for its own soul—its identity. Brigadier 'Umar al-Bashir now claims that Sudan is an Arab country, and he calls for unity of the Arab countries with the Sudan. What do you say about this claim?

[Khalid] I don't know what Brig al-Bashir stands for because this claim for Arab unity came in a statement to the editor of (?AL-MUSHAWWAR). It has been retracted. Another statement was made. It was also retracted. So the very fact that those statements are made and are unmade shows that there is something wrong.

But let me put it this way, that certainly from whatever source this vision of the Sudan comes, the vision of Dr Garang represents the reality more because Dr Garang is looking for the soul of the Sudan not in his ethnic group. He is looking for the soul of the Sudan in the kingdoms of Marawi. He is looking for it in the Kingdom of (Cush). He is looking for it in the Nubian Christian kingdom. He is looking for it in the Arab [word indistinct], at the Arab kingdoms that were established like the Funj and the Fur. He is looking for it in the traditional kingdoms of Sudan, like the kingdoms of the Shilluk or the kingdoms in the Zande. So Dr Garang is much more representative of Sudanism than anybody who tries to attribute to Sudanism only one facet. And in fact if anybody has a minimum of political sense he would have realized that the selective approach to the definition of Sudanese identity has been the source of all our ailments. The present crisis is simply a continuation of an attitude of mind that is almost neighboring to racial prejudice. And in fact those claims have in the past, and will continue, to cause division and dissension and more agony. So the sooner we desist from those approaches, the better it will be for social harmony in the Sudan.

[Reporter] Okay, the movement has diagnosed the country's problem, not as a southern problem but as the problem of Khartoum, that is the problem of power in Khartoum. 'Umar al-Bashir with his bunch of generals, or brigadiers, rather, in the so-called council for the salvation of the country, insist that it is a southern problem. Do you see any pace towards resolving the conflict taking into consideration positions held by each side?

[Khalid] Well, I alluded earlier to this issue of defining the problem as one, of the problem of the south, or the problem of Khartoum and I said it is not a matter of semantics. And in fact in the discussions we had here I was a bit amused to see that the attitudes of some of our [word indistinct] of reducing the problem to one of semantics, or let us change the title and call it the problem of the Sudan rather than the problem of the south. That is not the issue. The issue is that we have to admit that the problem of the south—and there is a problem because nobody is denying that there is no problem in the south, nobody is denying that the war is taking place and, historically, has taken place in the south—but the issue is that this problem is symptomatic of our problem. And if anybody just took the pain to read the modern history of the Sudan, he would have noticed that throughout the parliamentary regimes we had since independence, there have always been a very noticeable alliance or alliances and those alliances have taken place between groups coming from the rural areas.

Those groups have chosen, in spite of the presence or existence of so-called national political parties, those groups have chosen to establish their own associations to fend for themselves. You have the Bijah congress in eastern Sudan; you have the Nubah Mountain's Union; you have the Darfur development group; and you have several parties in the south; you have the Ingasanah development group, and so on and so forth. All those groups used to unite together in successive parliaments and particularly on issues related to the system of rule, on issues relating to economic development. And increasingly, those groups have been dismissed by the political forces in the north, rather by the cliques that have been ruling, or the ruling cliques who historically came or continue to come from the riverine northern Sudan. They were dismissing those groups as racist groups, as if, one is suggesting, that there is only one race, and that race has the dominance and any group that tries to fend for itself, even calling for, or making a legitimate claim, would be condemned as a racist movement so long as those claims might derogate from the privileges which were owing to the ruling elite.

So in a sense, what we had in the past is a type of situation where the ruling elite has, by its own action and inaction, changed regionally based movements into ethnically based movements, and that is why many of those movements decided to go into a (?pool) and ask for separation. I mean the case of the south is the case of reaction; the case of Anyanya One is the case of reaction. So what Dr John Garang has done, that he was able to see the source of the ailment, he was able to see root cause of the ailment. And he was able also to devise the

right remedy for it, and the right remedy is by giving those movements a muscle; and if what those movements were calling for is political power and the end of economic deprivation, that by definition means curtailing the political power of somebody else and the economic privileges of somebody else. And nobody is ready to give that up voluntarily, except if people have a sense of history and, seemingly, the leadership of the north did not have that sense of history, and the moment you have the political muscle, you have the... I mean, the power, then you will have sufficient political muscle to be able to carry through your agenda. And this is exactly what is happening.

I mean, if you look, for example, today at the acceptance by everybody in the Sudan of a national constitutional conference to consider all the problems, this is in a sense a very positive development. And for the first time, one can say that there is some light on the other side of the tunnel. But why did this come about? It has come about precisely because from the (?first) time those movements started to have a political muscle, otherwise they would have been dismissed the way they have been dismissed in the last 30 years.

[Reporter] So what in your view is the solution to the fundamental problems of the Sudan? That is to say, how will the Sudanese get rid of this sectarianism which you stated?

[Khalid] Well, I think here there are two processes, or three, possibly. One process is the process of education. And that is long-term, and this is not something that you can really change through laws, legislation, or through agreements. You need to educate the people, and this will take as long as it takes, you know, to educate people. But in order to be able to do this, there are two things that must precede it. The first thing is that what is acceptable from the average man is certainly unacceptable from a political leader, or everybody who claims to be a national leader.

If you want to lead a nation, you have to desist from being parochial. Parochialism can translate into regionalism, into religious sectarianism, and into any other type of localism. So that is the first thing, and this is why, if the SPLM is challenging anybody, it is really challenging those people. It is challenging the public opinion molders. It is challenging the so-called national leaders whose vision has always been myopic and has always been affected by this parochialism, as I said. That is the first thing.

The second thing is that since we are talking about political power, and here we are not really talking about power-sharing, because power-sharing means that people have to sit down and divide the booty or somebody is going to give to the other, I mean, which makes one person in the position of the giver and the other in the position of the taker. What we are really calling for is a restructuring of political power, where the Sudanese should get to have a small historical reflection on their past and try to, in a manner of speaking, go back to the drawing board. And in this respect, if we are talking about historical injustices, the historical injustices can only be solved, or can only be ended, by positive discrimination in favor of those against whom those injustices were practised.

This applies certainly to the rural populace of Sudan. And the rural populace, by definition, comprises groups from all the areas which I have mentioned earlier [word indistinct] areas of the west, of the east, and of the south. It also includes social groups and, in particular, I think, of women. I mean, women produce about 7 percent of the food in the Sudan, but still, I mean, they simply do not have any commensurate political power, so you will definitely consider an aspect there.

On the other hand, we would need really to have to exercise a lot of self-analysis and self-criticism, because if we are talking about the injustices suffered by the rural populace at the expense of the privileges bestowed on the people in the urban centers, I mean, it is time that we in the urban centers should also think about this. And there is no way for us to bring justice to the rural areas without accepting that this will (?impact) on the privileges, the relative privileges, which we have enjoyed in the urban centers.

[Reporter] Now one of the issues we have is a return to democracy. The present leadership in Khartoum has put a ban on all the political institutions, including the press. Top politicians detained others without charges. What will be the position of those detained in the light of return to democracy?

[Khalid] Well, the way we see the peace process and the reestablishment of democracy is a two-tier operation. Operation number one involves a total commitment to the peace process as it has been concluded between the movement in both Koka Dam declaration and the peace initiative signed between Sayyid Uthman Mirghani and Dr John Garang. And the two agreements are interrelated organically. Now that is the first step, but that is not the end of the road, because those agreements presuppose the convocation of a constitutional conference to address certain issues in accordance with a specific agenda. And there was definitely a tentative agreement among all the forces involved on how this process should be [word indistinct].

That situation has completely changed today in view of the military takeover and this is why the SPLM/SPLA called for a return to democracy in accordance with, again, a specific timetable which will involve the creation of an interim government, which by definition will have to be broadly based. And there is no way of doing this without restoration of fundamental liberty, without restoration of trade union rights, without the release of detainees, whether of political parties or trade unionists, in order for the political process to be excercised in a healthy atmosphere and in a free atmosphere.

Of course, there are accusations that have been leveled by the junta against some of the politicians; and we have said it loud and clear, that some of those accusations are suspect, because while everybody understands that, you know, the arrest of, or casting an accusation against a government officer because of economic corruption is something in place as long as you have the evidence to support the accusation, and as long as those individuals were given the due process of the law, one understands that. But what one does not understand is the arrest of political leaders who certainly are far from any executive function.

Dr Garang referred to persons like Sayyid Uthman Mirghani, Muhammad Ibrahim al-Nuqd, al-Baba Surur, and others among the trade unionists and among the politicians. But more serious than this is that there are politicians, people who are involved in (?government) and against whom the accusations of corruption are not only just a matter of hearsay; it is a common knowledge, and any child in the street will tell you about that. Those people are free, they are at large, while you have people in prison today, even among government officers, who are as clean as anything, you know, as clean as a whistle—you know, a man like Sid Ahmad al-Husayn. And I have no doubt that what is happening now is a sort of political victimization against elements who do not see eye to eye with the junta, or whose presence outside the prison walls would frustrate what the junta wants to do.

So in essence, a call for the release of political prisoners and trade union prisoners or detainees is definitely one of the items which the movement takes very seriously, one of the issues which the movement takes very seriously, but more than that, we have to add a caveat that this should not be understood to be condoning corruption. On the contrary, we said it very clear, that in a government, any interim government, parties should clean themselves. There is absolutely no place in an interim government which is devoted to national reconstruction, which is devoted to the creation of a new Sudan, which is devoted to the creation of a new democracy—there is no place in such a government for people who are accused of corruption, or people who have frustrated the democratic process, and we have seen examples of this. People who have been provoking the masses against trade unions in a very ugly manner and very unseemly manner, and I must add to this, there is no place in such a government for elements who try to frustrate the peace effort. That is again a matter of importance and urgency as far as the government is concerned.

Radio Denies Surrender of SPLA Soldiers

EA0509101589 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Sep 89

[From the "Conversation About the Current Situation" feature]

[Excerpts] Statements by the clique leader: Lieutenant General 'Umar made a statement to the BBC to the effect that after the declaration of the general amnesty, many officers and men of the People's Army surrendered with their weapons and joined them. Secondly, he said that because of a joint action between Ethiopia and Sudan, the movement had reached an agreement to move its camps to Uganda.

Then of course Lt Gen 'Umar went to Baghdad and called for greater Arab unity. In Baghdad he spoke about greater Arab unity and then he went to Libya and said, as if he was reading from the Green Book: We in the Sudan have abolished the parties, because the party system is undemocratic, and we have formed people's committees. [passage omitted]

Going back to Lt Gen 'Umar's statements: First, if any officer or other rank surrendered, then for truth's sake, name him, his area, his battalion and date of enlistment, and present him to the media. If we do not believe what you say, give the Sudanese people a chance to test your credibility. Second, why should we set out from inside Uganda when we have liberated areas bigger than Uganda itself? Third, as for the peace agreement, the war started in Sudan, is going on inside Sudan between the Sudanese, and it will be solved inside the Sudan. There is no solution except by way of a return to democracy. [passage omitted]

SPLA Condemns Trial of Former Vice President

EA0509214789 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Sep 89

[From the "Conversation About the Current Situation" feature]

[Excerpts] We support those opposed to the trial of Idris al-Banna. We oppose the sentence passed on Idris al-Banna. We support the war against corruption and will act to extirpate the roots of corruption. However, there was another time, namely 1984, when Kobar Prison embraced within its walls many party and political leaders, including Mr Idris al-Banna, Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, and Mr al-Tijani al-Tayyib Babikr. Great efforts were being made to unite the opposition on the basis of a national democratic program. Idris al-Banna was, at that time, but not subsequently, at the center of the unity of the opposition, while al-Mahdi was stressing his conviction that the opposition must unite and that there was a need for all political detainees to be released as a condition for his own exit from prison. [passage omitted]

Now sentence has been passed on Idris al-Banna. We suspected the Salvation clique would try him from the beginning. Not only is this clique unvirtuous, not qualified as democratic, and unfair, but it is also biased in favor of the Islamic Front, which regards al-Banna as an unworthy man. This is why he was tried so hastily. The trial of Idris al-Banna was intended to terrorize all the patriotic forces and pressure the leadership elements of some of the parties into accepting an alliance with the regime in a bid to widen its base.

The crime constituting the sentence passed on Idris al-Banna will be short-lived.

Originally, a court was set up to try him, but when it refused to impose a predetermined sentence, it was replaced by a group of unscrupulous men who denied him the right to defense lawyers, even though over 30 lawyers offered to defend him.

Second, the trial was hasty and failed to extend even the most basic legal rights. Its agenda was hastily conceived, and the trial coincided with the purge of the judiciary by means of direct interference by the Salvation clique and the officers loyal to it. The court did not consider Mr Idris al-Banna's age, but mercilessly sentenced him to 42 [as heard] years. We reject this sentence and condemn all those involved in handing it down. [passage omitted]

The sentence passed on Idris al-Banna is rejected by all people of conscience, regardless of the differences between us and Idris al-Banna during the previous regimes. Moreover, we declare our solidarity and loudly appeal to all international democracy-loving, humanitarian organizations and forces, and all the friends and sons of our people, both at home and abroad, to raise their voices high to put an end to this farce of mock trials and have Idris all-Banna's sentence rescinded.

The Salvation clique should be pressured into desisting from committing crimes against any other detainees in the Salvation clique's prisons. We say to all the detainees of our people's sons that we are confident in our People's Movement and its ability to put an end to these farces. An international solidarity campaign against these farces and mock trials is currently in progress.

We firmly oppose corruption, which cannot be extirpated without the decisive participation of the masses to supervise and take the reins of initiative to do away with policies and laws which lead to corruption.

Long live the struggle of the Sudanese people! Glory to our heroic people! Shame on the Salvation clique and their unscrupulous judges. Defeat to the forces of the fascist Islamic Front!

Trial of Former Housing Minister Resumes

EA0509171589 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2145 GMT 4 Sep 89

[Text] Special military court number one, presided over by Colonel Muhammad Bashir Sulayman, resumed its session this afternoon in the case of the accused former minister of housing, 'Uthman Umar al-Sharif.

The court heard the sixth prosecution witness, Muddathir Abd al-Fadil, lands director for the Khartoum area, who explained that the areas of Garden City, al-Manshiyah, and Amarat extension are regarded as areas subject to compulsory purchase orders and that plots in those areas had been sold in closed auctions. The witness said he received approval from the accused, when he was a minister, to issue plots in those areas to a number of citizens. In answer to questions from the prosecution, the witness said that the minister had signed documents approving the allocation of plots, but there was nothing in those documents to indicate that the applications had been submitted in accordance with the housing plan.

Tomorrow morning the court will hear the testimony of the accused, 'Uthman Umar al-Sharif, former housing minister.

Al-Mahdi's Wife, Two Others Reportedly Arrested

LB0709063289 London BBC World Service in English 1615 GMT 6 Sep 89

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] While General al-Bashir's military government in Sudan has been preparing for talks with the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army [SPLA] by setting up a huge 77-man committee, we were called up this afternoon by Mr Graham Thomas, who is a long-time friend and supporter of the Al-Mahdi family in Sudan. Sadiq al-Mahdi was toppled by Gen al-Bashir on June 30. Now, according to Mr Thomas, Sadiq's wife, Sarah, and two other women, supporters of his Ummah Party, have been arrested and detained in Khartoum. Robin White asked Graham Thomas where the three women have been taken?

[Begin recording] [Thomas] I understand that they have been taken to Omdurman prison. It is a dreadful prison with the standards very low indeed. The men, political prisoners in the notorious (Kaliba), are separated from the ordinary criminals, but the women have to go in with all the others who are thieves, drunkards, prostitutes, and so on.

[White] Now, why should they have been picked up now, do you think?

[Thomas] Well, they have been playing cats and mice with Sarah because after the coup she was arrested and then released. And then we heard that she had been taken into the military hospital in Omdurman because she was ill, and then she was released, and now she has been taken in again. I am sure that the regime will come forward with suggestions of financial corruption—that seems to be the usual ploy—but of course, I think there is no doubt about it that Sarah is very [word indistinct] political activist. She has been a considerable [words indistinct] political lives together, and of course, she was one of the few women at the top of the Ummah Party organization genuinely elected by an overwhelmingly male grouping of people.

[White] Has she been arrested because of her own political associations rather than because she is the wife of the former prime minister?

[Thomas] I think it is a combination of both. You say the former prime minister. I say prime minister, because the

[word indistinct] has only been overthrown by [words indistinct]. I think both, partly because she is really a political activist, and of course, also his wife.

[White] Are you certain that your information is correct about her arrest?

[Thomas] I have no reasons to doubt the information. It has always been given correctly. I had it from two sources this morning; one from Khartoum. An hour or so later, I spoke to a Sudanese in London, who had just put the phone down, having received the information likewise from Khartoum direct this morning. I have no reason to doubt the veracity of it. [end recording]

UN Official Praises Relief Efforts

EA0409210889 Omdurman Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Sep 89

[Text] Member of the NSRCC [National Salvation Revolution Command Council] and the general supervisor of the southern council, Staff Brigadier Pio Yukwan Deng, received a letter of appreciation from the personal representative of the UN secretary general and the executive director of UNICEF, Mr James Grant. The message appreciates Pio's efforts and of his colleagues to the Operation Lifeline Sudan. Mr Grant expressed concern for the continuation of the efforts to overcome the starvation and to rehabilitate southern Sudan.

It is to be recalled that Brig Pio had accompanied Mr Grant in his inspection visit to Malakal last week.

Salih Meets With Iranian Envoy in Khartoum

EA0609220889 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Text] Brigadier al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC], today received in his office at the People's Palace the charge d'affaires of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Khartoum. In a statement to the press, the charge d'affaires said the talks he held with Brig al-Zubayr concerned the relations and the consolidation of cooperation between the two countries in the interest of Islamic nations. He added that he had noticed a complete understanding on the part of the deputy chairman of the NSRCC.

Tunisia

Islamic Tendency Leader on Foreign Contacts

PM0609141489 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Sep 89 p 3

[Interview with Tunisian Islamic Tendency Movement leader Rachid Ghanouchi by Huda al-Husayni in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Husayni] There have been many questions about your long absence from Tunisia. Will you or will you not return?

[Ghanouchi] We will return, God willing.

[Al-Husayni] When?

[Ghanouchi] I do not expect it to be long.

[Al-Husayni] They [not further identified] say your presence abroad is a victory for the hard-line wing of the movement. Do you accept that interpretation?

[Ghanouchi] This is the first time I have heard that interpretation. I see no connection between it and my absence. I did not leave the country for over 10 years because of Bourguiba's control over our movement's strugglers and others. So when I was given the opportunity, I accepted many of the invitations sent to me to deliver lecturers. I still accept these invitations to closely acquaint myself with the conditions of Muslims and others. i was prevented from doing so in the past.

[Al-Husayni] Why are you in London now? Was an invitation sent to you?

[Ghanouchi] I am here as a visitor and want to obtain a visa for the United States.

[Al-Husayni] Did you not go to the United States?

[Ghanouchi] Last year. I received an invitation from the International Union of Muslim Students to attend their conference.

[Al-Husayni] Did you meet with U.S. politicians when you visited the United States?

[Ghanouchi] I met with scholars and intellectuals.

[Al-Husayni] Will you meet with politicians this time?

[Ghanouchi] There is no official invitation. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] Is there any link between you and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in the occupied Palestinian territory?

[Ghanouchi] Only what links with those working for Islam and those struggling on its behalf everywhere. This, together with what binds together freedom fighters throughout the world.

[Al-Husayni] Have you not met with any Hamas officials?

[Ghanouchi] On our tours we have met with them and others. They exist in student unions and Islamic conferences. Hamas is not a minor organization. It is an important Islamic jihad group. And Hamas members are active in the call [da'wah] within Islamic and international circles. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] Some of those who follow your activities have said that during your stay in Algeria and Morocco... Did you go there?

[Ghanouchi] What did they say?

[Al-Husayni] They said that you were received at the highest level by Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and King Hassan II of Morocco.

[Ghanouchi] They are talking about what they would like to happen. They are talking about their hopes. I did not visit Algeria or Morocco.

[Al-Husayni] They said the visit was made secretly.

[Ghanouchi] If it was made secretly, how did they know about it? It did not happen at all. But that is an example of some, if not all, Arab media voices. It shows you the extent of their knowledge and objectivity! [passage omitted]

Ben Ali Grants Interview to Lebanese Paper

PM0509114489 Tunis LE RENOUVEAU in French 29 Aug 89 pp 4-5

[Unattributed report on interview with Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali published by Lebanese magazine AL-SAYYAD—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted]

Questioned on how the authorities intend to respond to applications for legalization made by some opposition parties, the head of state replied:

"Our choice of democracy was dictated primarily by our deep conviction that the Tunisian people have reached a degree of awareness and political maturity which makes them able to be actively involved in the phase of political pluralism provided that this does not conflict with the country's interest and safeguarding the national community's achievements.

"That is why we are anxious to ensure that this democratic experiment succeeds and becomes a strong tradition in our national life, and to protect it from any failure or setback which is likely to lead the country onto unknown ground.

"We see no justification for the formation of any political party until it has defined the kind of society which it advocates and has clarified its position on questions relating to the country's future and its cultural choices, and until it bases its political program on the inviolable principles of respect for equal rights and duties for men and women, the values of tolerance, nonviolence, and freedom of conscience, and respect for the republican system and national independence.

"Moreover, I do not think that the large increase in the number of parties and the expansion of the political spectrum serve the nation's interests.

"When taken to extremes, things eventually produce a result which is the reverse of the expected result. Experience has shown that even in countries with a long-standing democratic tradition, the proliferation of parties often causes crises and hampers the normal process of development." [passage omitted]

Questioned on the repercussions which Egypt's return to the Arab League and the reestablishment of relations between Cairo and Tripoli will have for Tunisian workers in Libya and Libyan tourism in Tunisia, President Ben Ali said:

"We would not like our relations with Libya to be dependent on temporary circumstances, but to be based on good-neighborly relations and cooperation in various spheres, for the two countries' benefit. As everybody knows, we both belong to the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA]. There has been remarkable dynamism in these relations since the joint higher commission and the various section commissions started their meetings. These commissions have taken consistent, daily action to establish fruitful cooperation in all spheres. We are anxious to ensure that relations with fraternal Libya are based on sound foundations and mutual interests. In other words, cooperation between us goes beyond mere economic interests, beyond tourism, winning markets, and employment, and extends to much broader horizons. Furthermore, Tunisia does not aspire to monopolize cooperation with Libya or any other fraternal country. It is perfectly normal for Libya to have relations with all its neighbors. What is more, Tunisia was among those who strove to improve the climate and bring about reconciliation among the Arab capitals. It considers that any cooperation among brothers is bound to prepare the ground for and strengthen joint Arab action."

With regard to the UMA and the building of the Maghreb entity, the head of state said:

"The formation of the UMA was a response to the profound aspirations which the region dreamed of realizing. At the Zeralda summit in Algeria, in the framework of the higher Maghreb commissions, and at the Marrakesh summit, we strove to choose the best and most effective ways of basing the union on firm and rational foundations. The UMA is developing normally now that its structures and institutions are in place and there are no longer any obstacles. Quite the reverse, cooperation and complementarity have been extended to the transport, communications, and health sectors. And there is no doubt that the intensification of bilateral cooperation is likely to stimulate the UMA process." [passage omitted]

Turning to relations between Tunisia and Saudi Arabia, President Ben Ali said:

"The first foreign visit which I made was to Saudi Arabia with the aim, as I have already said, of asserting Tunisia's Arab and Islamic identity because that dimension had been absent from the Tunisian scene under the previous regime. That visit was crowned with success

and made it possible to strengthen relations with the kingdom and with King Fahd Ibn-'Abd al-'Aziz, my brother and servant of the two Holy Mosques, with whom I discussed all bilateral, Arab, and international questions. This was also an opportunity for me to become acquainted with the leaders of this fraternal country. I can describe our current relations with Saudi Arabia as excellent." President Ben Ali also announced that he would shortly make a tour of the Gulf region.

With regard to relations between Tehran and the Arab world, he said:

"I hope that there will be a positive change in Iranian policy in the Gulf and toward the Arab world. But I do not think that this will happen in the near future. The war between Iraq and Iran lasted too long and killed and injured many people. The wound will therefore take a long time to heal before things can resume their normal course between the two countries and with the Arab countries, especially the Gulf countries." [passage omitted]

Talking about Tunisian-Syrian relations, he pointed out that there has always been a degree of constancy in these relations which have received a remarkable boost since 7 November. "With the aim of giving Tunisia its rightful place on the Arab scene, we worked to make clarity, harmony, and fraternal and fruitful cooperation the fundamental characteristics of our relations with our Arab brothers, including Syria. Tunisian-Syrian contacts have therefore grown at all levels, serving the two countries' interests and benefiting joint Arab action," he added.

With regard to relations between Tunisia and Lebanon, he noted that these relations date back to the days of the Phoenicians and that Tunisia has never been far from the Lebanese people, especially since the start of the painful trial which Lebanon is still experiencing.

"It has made great efforts," he said, "at the local Lebanese level, and at Arab and international levels, to express its interest in and concern about the events taking place in fraternal Lebanon."

In this connection, President Ben Ali recalled Tunisia's participation in the Committee of Six which was given the task of remedying the situation in Lebanon, and that committee's good offices which were aimed at reconciling viewpoints. "While fully appreciating the exhausting efforts made by the Arab triumvirate formed by the Casablanca summit, we will never lose hope of finally finding a solution to the Lebanese problem. We think that the platform on which the settlement to this problem could be based is the restoration of a national consensus among the Lebanese—a consensus which takes account of the situation in Lebanon and the different categories of the population, which would enable the constitutional institutions to play their role and guarantee Lebanon's full sovereignty over its territory with unity among its people and the assertion of its Arab nature."

Explaining Tunisia's position with regard to the Palestinian cause, President Ben Ali said:

"Our position on the Palestinian cause is clear and unchanging: We still advocate the independence of Palestinian decisionmaking, and believe in the need to support it with the conviction that this cause primarily concerns the Palestinian people and that responsibility for the struggle rests exclusively with their legitimate leadership."

And he added: "The Arab states and peoples have a duty to support this struggle by every means and to give it all the aid required, we think that this is the very principle which inspired the Casablanca summit resolutions which the Algiers extraordinary summit ratified to support the Intifadah. The Palestinian cause has recently won major victories in the diplomatic sphere, so that even Israel's traditional allies have finally been embarrassed by the Jewish state's inflexibility and abhorrent practices."

"The phenomenon has even spread to the Israeli political class. We helped to open Palestinian-American channels of dialogue in response to our Palestinian brothers' wishes. We created suitable conditions for starting and continuing this dialogue and we think that the continuation of the Intifadah and dialogue are capable of strengthening the Palestinian position and leading to victory.

"The Palestinian leadership has enough experience and wisdom to be able to draw a distinction between maneuvering and the serious search for just and lasting solutions. The PLO has already given its verdict on the Shamir plan and has clearly defined its position on the election issue. In this connection, world opinion now no longer has any doubt about Israel's real intentions, especially after the amendments to this plan introduced by the Likud Central Committee. At all events, political skill lies less in judging intentions than in seizing opportunities, and handling proposals and initiatives, from whatever source, to serve the cause and win it support.

"By that I mean the need to use the enemy's own weapon, and the PLO did that by formulating an appropriate counterproposal while ensuring that the Intifadah continued. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Minutes of Joint Committee With Iraq Signed

JN0209164389 Manama WAKH in English 1548 GMT 2 Sep 89

[Text] Manama, Sept 2 (GNA)—The minutes of the sixth meeting of the Bahraini-Iraqi joint committee were signed here today.

It was signed by Bahraini Minister of Finance and National Economy Ibrahim 'Abdul-Karim and Iraqi Finance Minister Hikmat 'Umar al-Hadithi.

The Bahraini minister said that the minutes stressed the importance of developing exports, increasing bilateral exchange of trade for the sake of boosting economic, trade and financial cooperation between the two countries.

The two sides agreed to promote cooperation in the private sector and boost cooperation in the fields of trade, agriculture, investment, education, culture and technical training.

90 Percent of AIDS Carriers Drug Addicts

JN0209171189 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 31 Aug-1 Sep 89 p 8

["Bahrain Digest" column]

[Text] The number of AIDS carriers in Bahrain stand at 44, while 90 per cent of the nationals carrying the AIDS virus are drug addicts, it was disclosed by a top Bahraini health official early this week.

Dr Rashid Fulayfil, Undersecretary at the Ministry of Health, assured the general public however that Bahrain does not have a single AIDS victim infected with the fatal disease. There is a vast difference between a person suffering from AIDS and one who is merely carrying the virus, he said.

Early this year Dr Fulayfil, who is also the chairman of the National Committee for the Prevention of AIDS, told the ARAB TIMES in an interview that the island had at that time about 15 AIDS carriers. The rise in the figure is attributed to an increase in the number of drug addicts. In spite of this increase in the number of AIDS carriers the undersecretary of health requested residents not to panic. An AIDS carrier may not necessarily contract the dreaded disease. The virus like any other form in our body may go away of its own accord, explained Dr Fulayfil in the ARAB TIMES in the earlier report.

Authorities have deported four expatriates who are AIDS virus carriers while the remaining Bahraini carriers have been strongly advised to undergo counselling at the Psychiatric Hospital, which has the only drug rehabilitation centre in the region.

Meanwhile, strong measures are being undertaken to combat the escalation of AIDS carriers and to ensure that there are no AIDS victims. AIDS screening is enforced for all drug addicts and blood donors. Blood samples from all donors in the island are screened at the blood bank in Sulmaniya Medical Centre. Women admitted to hospital to give birth are also tested for AIDS.

Information cards on the virus, in Arabic and English, are given to people travelling out of Bahrain at the airport as well as health centres and social clubs.

Kuwait

Amir Departs Belgrade for Bulgaria Mediation

LD0609110989 Kuwait KUNA in English 0825 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Text] Belgrade, Sept 6 (KUNA)—H.H. [His Highness] the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah left here for Bulgaria this morning on a brief tour that will also take him to Turkey, en route home.

During the tour, the amir who is current chairman of the Organization of Islamic Countries will meet with the Bulgarian and Turkish leaders, Todor Zhivkov and Kenan Evren in the framework of Kuwaiti mediations to resolve the problem of ethnic Turkish Muslim minority in Bulgaria.

H.H. the amir was accompanied by a number of members of the Kuwaiti delegation that took part in meetings of the Non-aligned Ninth Summit conference, currently in progress here.

The Kuwaiti amir was seen off at Belgrade airport by the Yugoslav vice-president, the Kuwaiti Ambassador in Belgrade, Isa al-Hamad and senior Yugoslav officials.

H.H. the amir is expected to fly home this evening.

Meanwhile, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud Muhammad al-Usaymi has stayed behind at the head of the Kuwaiti delegation to the summit.

Amir Stops in Sofia, Istanbul

LD0609184389 Kuwait KUNA in English 1646 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Text] Kuwait, Sept 6 (KUNA)—His Highness the Amir of Kuwait and the delegation accompanying him returned to Kuwait Wednesday evening after attending the 9th Non-aligned Movement [NAM] summit and making brief stops in Bulgaria and Turkey.

He was greeted at the airport by crown prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah, commander of the National Guards Shaykh Salim al-'Ali, deputy premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmed, shaykhs, ministers and top government officials as well as a crowd of citizens.

After leaving Belgrade earlier in the day His Highness made a stopover in Bulgaria where he had brief talks with President Todor Zhivkov on the dispute between Bulgaria and Turkey on emigration of ethnic Muslims.

His Highness the amir later stopped in Istanbul for the same purpose and discussed the issue with Turkish President Kenan Evren and Prime Minister Turgut Ozal.

His Highness paid a three-day official visit to Egypt in August 28-30 and then stayed in Switzerland on a private visit before heading for Belgrade to attend the NAM summit.

Oman

* Excellent Relations With Spain Reported

44001556z Muscat TIMES OF OMAN in English 1 Jun 89 p 13

[Excerpt] Ever since they established diplomatic links, Spain and the Sultanate of Oman have enjoyed an excellent relationship based not only in a common cultural heritage but in the personal friendship between His Majesty Sultan Qabus and His Majesty King Juan Carlos I, who came to Muscat on official visit in December 1985.

Prior to that visit, Crown Prince Felipe de Borbon also traveled to Muscat on the occasion of the 15th National Day Celebrations.

The Spanish-Omani trade links were brought closer with the appointment as Honorary Consul for Spain in Oman in 1987 and the Spanish Ambassador (non- resident), Jose Luis Xifra de Ocerin's visit to Oman in November 1988 to present his credentials to His Majesty.

With regards to trade relations between the two countries; Spain exports to Oman various products; foodstuff, building material, plastic, machinery, and other manufactured goods.

Trade delegations of both countries visit to explore the market, study new possibilities for commercial growth and exchange view points.

An Omani trade delegation from the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry visited Spain in 1987 and a Spanish trade delegation visited the Sultanate of Oman last year, discussing in detail matters related to increase in volume of trade and ways of improving business relations between the two countries.

Various Spanish companies participated in trade exhibitions in Oman and several Omani businessmen visited Spanish trade fairs on invitations from Spanish manufacturers and companies. The volume of trade between the two countries is expected to increase further and it appears that Spanish products are suitable for our market as the products are of high quality similar to those of other European countries and at the same time prices are competitive in comparison to other European products.

The Spanish economy is experiencing a period of healthy growth, which is attributed to the increase in volume of trade with other European countries and inflow of foreign investment as a result of its joining the EC in 1986. [passage omitted]

PDRY

Iraqi, PDRY Journalists Urge Arab Summit

JN0209134089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0953 GMT 2 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Aden, 2 Sep (INA)—The delegations of the Iraqi Journalists Federation and the Democratic Journalists Organization of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY] have stressed the need to exert Arab efforts to take a quick and decisive move to restore respect for Lebanese sovereignty and the Lebanese people's unity and to preserve Lebanon's Arabism.

In a joint statemnent issued in Aden last night, the two federations stressed the need to convene an Arab summit to discuss the situation in Lebanon and resolve the crisis within the framework of a unified Arab position. [passage omitted]

The Iraqi Journalists Federation delegation left Aden for Baghdad this morning at the end of a several-day visit to the PDRY.

Housing Minister Returns From China Visit

EA0509121589 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 4 Sep 89

[Text] The deputy minister of intallations and housing, Brother Muhammad Awad, arrived back in Aden this evening from the PRC where he led our country's delegation to the second session the of joint economic, technical and trade committee between our country and the PRC.

Brother Muhammad Awad told ADEN NEWS AGENCY that the session discussed the implementation of the resolutions of the first session and new proposals aimed at developing future cooperation between the two countries. He said that at the end of the session a new loan agreement on financing the last stage of the Al-Askariyah—(Labus) road project, the construction of a sports hall, and road repair was concluded. The roads to be repaired are: Abyan—(Al-Mashbas) and Al-Mukallah—Shahr—Sayhut. The Khor Mecca salt mine will also be modernized. He said that a Chinese delegation will shortly visit our country to evaluate the damage caused to roads and ways of modernising the salt mine. He said that a trade protocol on the exchange of commodities between the two sides was signed.

Saudi Arabia

Source Denies Tehran Report on King Fahd Health

LD0609155289 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1504 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Text] An authoritative source has denied a report broadcast by Tehran Radio today, Wednesday 6 September, and carried by the AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI' magazine regarding the health condition of the custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Ibn-abd al-Aziz, and regarding the Saudi family.

The source told SPA that "what was broadcast by Tehran Radio is a fabrication from the start and it is unfounded; it has no truth whatsoever."

United Arab Emirates

Diplomatic Relations Established With Poland

JN0409064589 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0618 GMT 4 Sep 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 4 Sep (WAKH)—The United Arab Emirates [UAE] and Poland have decided to establish diplomatic relations between their countries on the ambassadorial level as of today. A statement issued by the UAE Foreign Mnistry today says that out of the common desire to strengthen relations of friendship and to develop cooperation between the two countries, the UAE and Polish Governments have decided to establish diplomatic relations between the two countries on the ambassadorial level as of 4 September 1989.

Commentary Questions U.S. Policy Toward PLO

JN0309182089 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 2 Sep 89 p 1

[Editorial: "What Does the American Negotiator Want?"]

[Text] The current stalemate in the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue came as no surprise. Given the U.S. policy toward the region, which adheres to strategic alliance with Israel, this stalemate, indeed, is an inevitable result of the opposing political and principled positions.

We would not like to review the U.S. positions, which daily accentuate the nature of the U.S. view of Israel's role in the region, the public U.S. insistence on denying the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and establishment of their state, and the U.S. refusal to deal with the PLO as the legitimate representative of this people. Rather, we would like to ask what the U.S. negotiator really wants from the PLO.

The fact is that the United States, which over the years of the conflict has refused to talk with the Palestinians as people with human, national, and political rights similar to those enjoyed by all peoples on earth, was taken by surprise when the popular intifadah [uprising] erupted in the occupied Palestinian territories, foiling all attempts of annexation, subordination, and removal of identity. Finding itself in extensive isolation caused by world recognition of the Palestinian people's demands and of the role of the PLO and its responsibility and ability to meet its obligations, the United States wanted to contain the impact of the intifadah.

The dialogue began following statements, positions, and political programs that proved the sincerity of the Palestinian inclination toward peace. Partly, these came as response to U.S. conditions associated with commitments. However, the result was only a Palestinian response to the U.S. conditions, without the United States meeting its obligations in return.

When it came to the Arab-Israeli conflict, U.S. credibility had always been in question. Certainly, this situation will continue as long as we leave Israel free to suppress the intifadah without full, tangible Arab support for the revolution of the Palestinian people, and as long as we let the United States single out the Palestinian side without Arab intervention with all Arab capabilities to press the United States into ending its hostile alliance with Israel.

Yemen Arab Republic

Fatah Central Committee Member Departs Sanaa

JN0109181989 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Sep 89

[Text] Brother 'Abbas Zaki, Fatah Central Committee member and director general of the PLO Pan-Arab and International Relations Department, left Sanaa today after a visit to our country during which he held talks with a number of officials on a number of issues dealing with supporting the popular revolution and with political developments on the Palestinian, Arab, and international levels.

Brother 'Abbas Zaki clarified in a statement to SABA' that he felt during these talks the firm and principled stand of the Yemen Arab Republic and the firm support for the Palestinian stand by considering Palestine a joint Yemeni-Palestinian cause.

He was seen off by brother Dr Ahmad al-Asbahi, member of the Consultative Council and secretary of the Standing Committee, and brother 'Abdallah Abu-al-Hunud, the State of Palestine's charge d'affaires in Sanaa.

Cabinet Approves YAR-UAE Cooperation Accord

JN0609190489 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Excerpt] The cabinet held its ordinary session at 0900 this morning under the chairmanship of 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member.

After the cabinet reviewed the decisions of its previous session, it discussed the issues on its agenda. It made a

number of decisions, one of which was to approve the special agreement on economic, trade, and technical cooperation between our country and the government of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] which aims to entrench and develop the existing cooperation relations to serve the higher joint interests. [passage omitted]

Egyptian Official Confirms Explosion Last Month

JN0609162289 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Text] An Egyptian military spokesman said in Cairo today that an explosion took place in an Iraqi military industrial complex in Iraq during the second half of last month.

Before this statement, carried by REUTER, the British newspaper THE INDEPENDENT reported today that such an explosion took place, killing about 700 people.

Foreign Ministry Official Holds News Conference

Hamdun Urges Summit on Lebanon

JN0609185489 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 5 Sep 89 pp 1, 18

[By Khawlah Nazzal]

[Text] Nizar Hamdun, under secretary at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, has announced that Kuwaiti-Iraqi relations will witness important developments in the coming period. When asked by AL-QABAS during an expanded news conference he held yesterday, the Iraqi official noted that "during the coming period, high-level visits will be exchanged between the two fraternal countries to discuss the issue of the border between Kuwait and Iraq and all bilateral issues between the two countries."

The Iraqi Foreign Ministry under secretary stated that Kuwaiti-Iraqi relations are strong and developing. He noted that Kuwait's position toward Iraq during the Iraq-Iran war had reinforced and entrenched these relations on all levels.

The Iraqi official repeated Iraq's call for holding an emergency Arab summit on Lebanon to complete the work of the Casablanca summit. He noted that the Arab option in Lebanon was the only one capable of finding a solution to the crisis there. He warned against internationalizing the crisis. He denied that Iraq was a party to the Lebanese crisis, noting that Iraq, like other Arab countries, should express its opinion on Lebanese affairs because they affect the entire Arab nation.

Hamdun added that Iraq has continued its diplomatic efforts to convene an extraordinary Arab summit on Lebanon. He noted that Iraq believes that the summit is the only avenue out of the crisis in Lebanon after the failure of the tripartite committee's efforts. He said that Iraq's principled stand rejects the presence of any foreign forces in Lebanon.

With regard to Iraqi-Syrian relations, the Iraqi official denied the existence of a Gulf mediation intiative to clear the atmosphere between Baghdad and Damascus. He added that the differences with Syria are substantial and are represented by Iraq's rejection of Syria's position on the PLO, Lebanon, and the Iraq-Iran war.

The Iraqi official refrained from confirming or denying Israeli reports that Iraqi fighter planes reconnoitered Israeli airspace across Jordanian territory to locate important Israeli military positions. Hamdun added that nobody is allowed to interfere in Iraqi-Jordanian relations.

Discusses Iran

JN0609205289 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 5 Sep 89 pp 3, 20

[By 'Ubayd Sultan]

[Excerpt] Baghdad—[Passage omitted] At a news conference on the occasion of the celebrations of Saddam's Al-Qadisiyah week, Nizar Hamdun, Iraqi Foreign Ministry under secretary, in reply to a question posed by AL-ITTIHAD on Iran's condition that Iraqi forces withdraw to the international borders to push the peace process ahead, said that there is no written cease-fire agreement between the two sides because the cease-fire has not been definitively implemented. Hamdun said that Iraq is calling for a comprehensive peace agreement with Iran. He also said Iraq admits that its forces are still positioned on Iranian territory and will withdraw when a comprehensive peace agreement with Iran is concluded.

On Iraq's position on the USSR's arming of Iran, Hamdun said that Iraq has reservations about the Soviet policy. He added that Iraq also had explained to the USSR that such a policy was an erroneous one. [passage omitted]

Al-Zahawi Discusses Iran, Lebanon in Belgrade

JN0709071389 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2057 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Text] Belgrade, 6 Sep (INA)—Wisam al-Zahawi, [Iraqi] Foreign Ministry under secretary, refuted here tonight the Iranian regime's allegations about Iraq's positions regarding the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598.

In an interposition before the Nonaligned summit in Belgrade, Al-Zahawi said: The statement delivered by Iran's representative this afternoon was not only an excellent piece of mockery, but it was also an insult to the intelligence of all those taking part in the conference.

He added: Everybody here knows well about the binding nature of Resolution 598. Everybody also remembers well how Iran rejected it for a whole year.

Al-Zahawi asserted that Iran hesitantly accepted the resolution, and accepted it only after the complete collapse of its armed forces.

He said: Certainly, Iraq does not want to be directed by anyone regarding Resolution 598. Iraq seriously endeavored to encourage the endorsement of the resolution and accepted it 2 days after it was issued. At that time, the

Iranians were claiming that the resolution was suggested by Iraq and passed in the Security Council by the United States.

Al-Zahawi added: Regarding the cease-fire and the deployment of the international observers force and the non-withdrawal of troops, I must remind the head of the Iranian delegation of his government's commitments with Iraq through the agreement with the UN secretary general of 8 August 1988.

Al-Zahawi asserted that this agreement was the base for the agreement between the two sides to adhere to a cease-fire starting 20 August 1988 and holding direct talks in Geneva starting 25 August 1988.

He said: The cease-fire has not yet become fixed because a common understanding on the remaining clauses of Resolution 598, and the measures and timetables to implement them, has not yet been reached. This is all because of Iran's disavowal of its commitments stipulated in the 8 August agreement. Therefore, the international observers force is still on the cease-fire line.

Al-Zahawi added: The Iranian delegation tried to give the impression that direct talks have taken place. In fact, the Iranians have definitely not entered into direct talks with us, and this is the reason that prevented any discussion of the different issues related to the resolution, including withdrawal.

Al-Zahawi continued: The Iranians have transformed what should have been direct talks into general discussion and have adopted the selective method in order to maintain a state of no war and no peace.

The Foreign Ministry under secretary asserted that Iraq would not take part in this method, or in any plan or proposal which was aimed at implementing Resolution 598 in phases or steps, or in parts because all these methods and plans would allow the state of no war and no peace. He said: UN Security Council Resolution 598 cannot be achieved without a comprehensive, just, honorable, and durable peace.

Al-Zahawi added that the head of the Iranian delegation had raised the issue of ceasing acts of hostility and releasing prisoners of war [POW's]. He said: Iraq's position on this issue is clear and has been announced on many occasions. Iraq was not the only party saying that effective acts of hostility ended with the implementation of the cease-fire on 20 August 1988. This was the same stand adopted by the International Committee of the Red Cross regarding international law as mentioned in the Geneva convention of 1949. Iran rejected, and still rejects, this stand and still causes the detention of almost 100,000 Iraqi and Iranian POW's for political reasons.

Al-Zahawi said that the head of the Iranian delegation had the audacity to talk about Iraq's intervention in Lebanon's affairs. He said: Iran has a military presence in Lebanon in collusion with Syria, which allowed it to enter Lebanon illegally.

The Foreign Ministry under secretary wondered: What are the objectives behind this Syrian-Iranian intervention? And, should intervention be allowed in a neighboring country under the excuse of protecting the security of the intervening country?

He said: This is definitely a rejected justification and constitutes a dangerous precedence in our movement.

The Iranian representative then delivered a speech in which he failed to answer the questions raised by Iraq's interposition. He avoided speaking about the reasons behind the Iranian military presence in Lebanon, which was one of the reasons behind the catastrophe in that Arab country.

The chairman of the session then spoke and called for direct talks to solve the outstanding problems between Iraq and Iran. He said that all the speeches delivered have expressed the desire to hold such talks. He also asserted the need to achieve a permanent and comprehensive peace.

He said: This call made by the world—the call of the Nonaligned summit and the call of the world—must be respected in order to achieve peace.

Memorandum of Understanding Signed With Vietnam

JN0709074889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Text] Iraq and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam today signed a memorandum of understanding that covers various transportation fields.

The memorandum was signed for the Iraqi side by Muhammad Hamzah, minister of transport and communications, and for the SRV side by Transport Minister Bui Danh Luu.

The memorandum calls for cooperation in aviation, river transportation, railways, and ports, in addition to the use of Vietnamese labor.

The signing ceremony was attended by the under secretary of the Transport and Communications Ministry and the SRV ambassador in Baghdad.

Katyusha Rockets Fired From Jordanian Territory

TA0709074489 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 7 Sep 89

[Text] There has been another incident on the border with Jordan. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman announced that after midnight last night, IDF troops sighted the launching of several Katyusha rockets from Jordanian territory at Israeli territory. Searches conducted this morning revealed the crater of a 107-mm Katyusha rocket. This was the IDF spokesman's announcement about the firing of Katyusha rockets at Israel. Here are more details by our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz:

Echoes of explosions in the Jordan Rift Valley were heard after midnight last night. Nobody was hurt and no damage was caused. Searches conducted in the area this morning revealed a crater caused by a 107-mm Katyusha rocket. IDF soldiers reported that the Katyushas had been fired from Jordanian territory.

This is the second time in the last week that terrorists have attacked targets in Israel from Jordanian territory. Last Saturday, two IDF soldiers were shot dead by a terrorist who infiltrated Israel near Kibbutz Kefar Ruppin.

Rabin Goes to U.S. To Meet With Baker, Cheney

TA0709053189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 7 Sep 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin left overnight for the United States. Rabin was invited to open an Israel Bonds conference in Philadelphia. He will use the opportunity of the trip to meet with Secretary of State James Baker and with his American counterpart, Dick Cheney. The defense minister will also hold talks with the heads of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Peres Says Shamir Refugee Aid Request 'Foolish'

TA0609064889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Text] Vice Premier Shim'on Peres has sharply attacked the request by Prime Minister Shamir and Defense Minister Rabin for U.S. President Bush to raise $2 billion for restoring refugee camps. Speaking at the opening of the Labor Party's campaign for the Histadrut elections in Haifa last night, Peres called the move foolish. He said it was clearly made without any elementary forethought. Peres said there is no logic in being concerned with the plight of the refugee camps when Israel is undergoing an economic crisis and is struggling against the intifadah [uprising]. He said it is far more important to raise money to absorb the 100,000 immigrants expected from the Soviet Union.

The Likud faction in the Knesset responded to Peres' criticism. Likud Knesset leaders said they found it strange that a minister in the government is against the peace initiative which he voted for in the Cabinet. The Likud statement said Peres' opposition to Shamir's attempts to raise money for the rehabilitation of Palestinian refugees is either ignorance, jitteriness, or simply thoughtlessness.

Commentary Analyzes U.S. Role in Peace Process

TA0109125889 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Sep 89 p B1

[Commentary by Avraham Schweitzer: "Stuck"]

[Text] Now it is almost official: Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, one of the originators and leading marketers of the Israeli peace initiative, 1989 model, admits that it is stuck. So far it is still being kept alive by the United States, surprisingly enough. This resuscitation began with Secretary of State Baker's acceptance of Prime Minister Shamir's declaration that the Likud Central Committee braces do not commit him. One can safely assume that a parallel process is taking place within the framework of the U.S.-PLO dialogue. The results of this activity have so far been modest, but sufficient enough to spread the word that 'Arafat was the winner at the latest PLO convention. Such a victory is tantamount to the initiative remaining valid.

But even the most persistent pretense cannot create the reality the initiative was meant to bring about. This reality involves negotiations with the Arab population of the territories, in an attempt to set the procedures and dates for electing a ruling (for the implementation of autonomy) and representative body which would then conduct talks with Israel on what is referred to as the permanent status of the territories.

To tell the truth—the same truth Rabin was forced to admit—we are as far away today from the initiative's desired reality as we were when it was launched, in April, during Shamir's visit to Washington.

There is some significance to the distinction that the freeze was not a result of tactical considerations, on either the Israeli or the Palestinian side. On the contrary, a tactical consideration—or so it seems—is what led both sides to appear ready and willing to further a solution, which would be impossible without mutual concessions and compromises. Both sides wished—each for its own reasons—to lower the level of the intifadah's [uprising] violence, which had been raging for over a year when the initiative was launched; moreover, both parties hoped that a show of moderation would get the designated mediator, the United States, on their side. These tactical considerations were shelved when the strategic guidelines leading Israel (Shamir and his colleagues handling Israeli foreign policy), and those leading the Palestinians (the braces clamped on the Palestinian response to Shamir's initiative by the PLO convention), became dominant.

The tremendous grassroots energy released as a result of the West Bank Arabs' bitterness toward the Israeli

authorities, while not slackening, is branching out. In some measure, the intifadah has lost its popular nature, and consequently is less telegenic. It has turned some of its weapons (axes and knives) against fellow Arabs, and some of its energy (this is still just a projection) may be diverted to terror activities and attempts to murder individual Israelis. The propaganda value of these actions would be doubtful.

As for the Israeli side, the intifadah has become just a part of the routine. Therefore, there is nothing to motivate Shamir's Israel to breathe new life into the initiative; while the Palestinians, and especially PLO followers, have a long tradition of missing the train.

An experienced Israeli observer who has comprehensive and up-to-date information believes that from the very beginning the United States was considered the only guarantor for the success of the peace initiative, and has not thrown up its hands at the attempt to bring Shamir's Israel and 'Arafat's Palestinians closer to a compromise. In its opinion—here we are alluding to the administration, Congress, and the Senate.—indefatigable efforts must be made to lead the two sides back to the course they appeared to be on at the beginning of the year.

The above observer's point of view contradicts the opinion of another expert who feels that the United States does not currently regard the Middle East as an area of vital interest, and does not think that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict poses any tangible danger to peace and stability. The second observer subsequently comes to the conclusion that the attempts to revive the process will continue, just to stop tongues from wagging, but no more. And if "Israel, the strategic ally", and the Palestinians, the pet cause of all American Third World lovers, stew in their own juice as a result of this policy—so be it. And when they grow sick of cooking, they will come running back to the United States to be rescued.

These two conflicting evaluations give us no small insight as to the different degree of stability accorded to U.S. policy by each pundit; the first observer believes in this stability, while the second considers U.S. policy to be opportunistic and fickle, at least on issues that have no direct bearing on vital U.S. interests. Anyway, the direction the United States will take remains unclear: toward actually dropping the peace initiative, albeit temporarily; or renewing its momentum by wielding heavy pressure—as much as it takes, on both Israel and the Palestinians—to force them closer to a resolution of their conflict. The significance of the path chosen by the United States is not limited to its own policies; it will have a decisive bearing on the future of the Likud government. If the United States were to turn its back on the peace process, it would mean the end of the national unity government (and the Rabin-Shamir coalition). Renewed U.S. momentum, on the other hand, would constitute support for the coalition and the government. The decision on which option to take will, it appears, be made relatively soon.

Arens Accused of Egyptian Election Plan Talks

TA0409133189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 4 Sep 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens will be summoned to a meeting of the Likud caucus to clarify whether he is holding unofficial contacts on Egypt's 10-point plan for elections in the territories. Knesset Member Mikha'el Eytan has accused him of maintaining such contacts, claiming that Arens is acting in contravention of government policy.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1100 GMT on 4 September reports that "Arens' aide, Dani Nave, said the foreign minister did not engage in negotiations—he merely made some informal comments."]

Shamir Expresses 'Displeasure'

TA0509112689 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Sep 89 pp 1, 12

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is refusing to react to the 10 Egyptian conditions for elections in the territories and has instructed government officials not to talk about the Egyptian demands.

Shamir has expressed displeasure with the detailed responses to the Egyptian conditions given in recent weeks by Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and ministry officials.

Sources in Arens's bureau maintain that the reactions given several weeks ago to the U.S. ambassador to the UN, Thomas Pickering, and subsequently to Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Basyuni, were informal and not binding on the government.

Shamir has told his aides that, although they conformed with Likud positions, Arens's remarks to Pickering contradicted the government's position that Israel will not negotiate on procedures until an Arab party gives its agreement in principle to the proposals.

Egypt, for its part, has decided to disregard Arens's replies, and is still demanding a formal Israeli reply to its conditions, sources said last night.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 5 September carries a report on page 1 by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar, adding that "most senior Likud sources yesterday accused Foreign Minister Moshe Arens of giving the United States the green light to promise the PLO its support of the Egyptian 10 points by responding to questions by Thomas Pickering, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, and Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni on his views about these points."]

American sources denied reports that the U.S. had "accepted" or "adopted" the 10 Egyptian conditions,

but added that several State Department officials believe that Israeli responses would "be helpful" in moving the peace process forward.

The Egyptian demands—which many officials in Jerusalem believe were conceived in collaboration with the PLO—include, among others, participation of East Jerusalem residents in the poll, prior Israeli agreement to the peace-for-territories formula, a cessation of settlement activities, and a string of demands meant to ensure the freedom of the proposed elections.

In his talks with Pickering, Arens indicated that agreement could probably be achieved on the conditions pertaining to procedures. But he reiterated the Likud's strong opposition to the substantive Egyptian demands.

Israeli officials believe that Washington is still committed to the elections proposal, and that it realizes that some of the Egyptian conditions are "non-starters" as far as Shamir is concerned.

In a letter reportedly sent to moderate Arab countries last week, Secretary of State James Baker urged support for Egyptian efforts to co-opt the PLO into the peace process. Baker reportedly wrote that Egyptian-PLO engagement in the peace process could be based on the 10 Egyptian points.

Foreign Ministry sources in Jerusalem said last night that they had not received a copy of Baker's letter.

The officials added that the U.S. would adopt the conditions as its own policy only if the PLO cooperated in naming a Palestinian delegation to negotiate on the elections. Given the difficulties encountered in the latest round of U.S.-PLO talks, the officials added, Washington sees no reason to confront Israel at this time with the specifics of the elections. [passage omitted]

Kalmanovich Attorney Denies Reported Spy Swap

TA0709075389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 7 Sep 89

[Text] Amnon Zikhroni, Shabtay Kalmanovich's attorney, has denied the report in the German paper DIE WELT about a spy swap between nine countries, including Israel. Attorney Zikhroni believes that, contrary to reports, Kalmanovich is not a candidate for any spy deal, and he thinks Kalmanovich does not want to go back to the Soviet Union.

[Begin Zikhroni recording] For what reason does Kalmanovich need such a swap? I believe he will probably want to serve his prison term here and remain in the West. What does he need such a swap for? [end recording]

Walesa 'Very Interested' in Paying Visit

TA0609121389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Text] Lech Walesa told Israeli correspondents in Warsaw yesterday that he would be very interested in visiting Israel, and is actually only waiting for an official invitation. The Foreign Ministry is checking into these reports, and a forthcoming visit by Lech Walesa cannot be ruled out.

Poland Promises Resumption of Diplomatic Ties

TA0309184689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Text] Polish leaders have promised Minister Zvulun Hammer that their country will be the first Eastern bloc country to resume diplomatic relations with Israel. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that in his briefing to the Cabinet today, Hammer said that his Polish interlocutors told him that the decision to sever ties with Israel was not one which the Polish Government adopted independently. Minister Hammer was also said that Poland's readiness to renew ties with Israel stems, among other things, from the glorious history of the Jews in Poland.

Minister Hammer also said at the Cabinet session that Israel should lead the struggle against the Carmelite convent in Auschwitz.

Poles Resent Rejection of Visa Applicants

TA0109123689 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 1 Sep 89 p 12

[Report from Warsaw by Sha'ul Ben-Hayim]

[Text] The Polish authorities have recently voiced their deep resentment over the high number of Polish citizens who are not being allowed to enter Israel. "There is hardly a flight from Warsaw to Tel Aviv in which passengers are not sent back to Poland without being allowed to enter the country, despite the fact that all of them have had their passports stamped with tourist visas. We know about one such flight in which 30 passengers were denied entry," a Polish source in Warsaw disclosed yesterday.

Prior to their departure for Israel, visa applicants undergo thorough questioning at the Israeli Consulate in Warsaw. The consulate's spokesman said that applicants are asked to present a return ticket, a letter of invitation, and proof that they have the financial means to pay for their entire stay in Israel. According to him, quite a large number of applicants are denied visas.

An official source in Warsaw confirmed that the Polish diplomatic representation in Israel has sent a letter on the matter to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem.

2 Wounded, 6 Schools Closed, 7 Houses Demolished

TA0609194989 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Text] According to military sources, two Judaea and Samaria residents were wounded in clashes with soldiers today. Local Arab residents reported that 11 residents, including 6 from the Gaza Strip, were wounded.

The Civil Administration today demolished seven houses in the village of Yattah in the Hebron hills because they were constructed without a permit. In addition, the administration ordered that six more schools be closed because of student involvement in disturbances.

Intifadah Slogans Allow Arab Workers Into Israel

JN3108105289 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Last night, slogans signed by the so-called Unified Leadership [of the Palestinian Uprising] were written in Khan Yunus and Rafah suburbs allowing the Gaza Strip workers to enter Israel as of tomorrow, Thursday [August 31].

Increased Inter-Palestinian Terrorism Noted

TA0309172589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Text] Data collected by the defense establishment indicate that 16 Palestinians from the territories were killed by other Palestinians in August alone. This figure is higher than the overall number of casualties in all of 1988. Security sources have told our correspondent Arye Gus that since the beginning of the intifadah [uprising], 100 Arabs were killed by their kinsmen, and of them 80 have been murdered since the beginning of the year. Some of these assassinations were exceptionally brutal.

The security sources believe that the profusion of these murders is a cause for great concern among the intifadah leadership.

And another statistic: Since January 1989, 1,700 attacks have been registered in the territories, more than half of them perpetrated against Arabs.

'Loss of Control' Over Uprising Elements Feared

TA0309141889 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Sep 89 p 1

[Report by Ori Nir]

[Text] East Jerusalem public figures have expressed apprehension over the prospects of what they perceive to be the loss of control by the pragmatic leadership echelon in the territories over the activists in the various settlements and over the exacerbated shows of unbridled violent activity.

A prominent East Jerusalem public figure told HA'ARETZ yesterday that great difficulties have been experienced recently in implementing the pragmatic leadership's instructions over the cadres active in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. He claims that he and his colleagues can sense a serious radicalization in the patterns of violence demonstrated by the Palestinians in the territories, who can no longer be controlled.

The source pointed to three phenomena in this context:

—The activity of armed young Palestinians, who are oblivious to any show of discipline and restraint in using their weapons.
—The rising number of assassinations of individuals suspected of collaboration. This is an issue over which the Palestinian leadership has repeatedly urged restraint, calling for this kind of sentencing to be limited only to cases in which the suspect has been positively identified as a collaborator and following the attainment of the PLO's approval for the operation.
—The dispute that has emerged recently between the Unified National Command of the Uprising, which coordinates its positions with the PLO, and the popular committees in the Gaza Strip on the question of whether the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip who work in Israel should continue their strike. The Unified National Command of the Uprising is trying to bring about an end to the strike. This follows the realization that the inhabitants of the Strip have no viable alternative means of employment in Gaza itself. Yet the popular committee activists in the Gaza Strip ignore this position, forcing the inhabitants to continue the strike.

The source, who is identified with mainstream PLO, expressed his assessment that the elements pulling the strings behind the policy of escalation in the area are linked to George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP]. He claims that the pragmatic Palestinian leaders in the territories currently have no accessible channels of communication with the PFLP's local leadership because the Palestinians lack a central leadership.

Prominent figures identified with Fatah in the territories have recently complained of great laxity in their ability to control the uprising activists in the West Bank, and even more so in the Gaza Strip.

Vilna'i Notes Change in Gaza Uprising Character

TA0609191489 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Text] Although there has not been a decline in the number of incidents in the Gaza Strip, they have changed in character, said Major General Matan Vilna'i, commander of the Southern Command, today in his first meeting with reporters since entering office.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] The intifadah [uprising] incidents in the Gaza Strip have

changed in character, noted Maj Gen Matan Vilna'i today. Despite the great tension felt in the Gaza Strip, such phenomena as mass demonstrations and rallies have virtually disappeared.

[Vilna'i] I can tell you that the intifadah has changed form, and that the days of major demonstrations and public disturbances are gone. This is not because the locals so desire, but because reality dictates it. We can, by employing military measures, contend with major problems and prevent them. This is our mission.

[Unidentified correspondent] At the same time, no change has occurred in the scope of the incidents. A certain rise in the number of disturbances in the Rafah and Khan Yunus refugee camps could be felt over the past few weeks. According to Gen Vilna'i, this cannot be predicted, and such a period can even be followed by a time of relative quiet.

As for the popular committees and the series of attacks they conduct as part of a campaign of settling accounts, the commander of the Southern Command says: We have located the problem and are increasingly able to strike at these gangs. Nonetheless, this is a long process which cannot be completed in one fell swoop. [end recording]

Since the end of the strike in the territories to protest the issuing of the Israeli magnetic identity cards, departure for work in Israel from the Gaza Strip has been sporadic. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] attributes this to the Arabs' fear of the local strike committees, which confiscate and destroy the cards. Our correspondent in the south Roni Sofer reports:

[Begin recording] In the past week, there has been a noticeable drop in the number of Gaza employees departing for work in Israel. IDF data indicate that in the past 4 days only between 4,000 and 10,000 left the Strip for work in Israel, compared to a figure at least 4 times higher before. The IDF believes the phenomenon can be attributed to the Arab workers' fear of the local strike forces. The IDF spokesman reported today that the drop in departures for work from the Strip stems from the fact that many leave for Israel at the beginning of the week, returning only on the weekend. Many prefer not to return to the Gaza Strip for long stretches of time, despite the difficulty of being away from their families and the fear of an encounter with Israeli law, which bans the stay of residents of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza inside the Green Line during the night. The IDF spokesman explained that the local strike committees are intimidating employees by confiscating and destroying the magnetic cards issued by the Civil Administration. The workers would rather spend the night in their work places in Israel than forfeit the cards which, despite everything, still allow them to make money honorably. [end recording]

Soldiers Receive Sentences for Refusing Service

TA050917 1989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 5 Sep 89

[Text] Three more soldiers have been sentenced to prison for refusing to serve in the territories. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that 32-year-old reserves sergeant Sha'ul Schwartz from Tel Aviv was sentenced to 28 days in prison; 27-year-old reserves sergeant 'Ofer Kasif, a student from Jerusalem, was sentenced to 22 days in prison; and 38-year-old reserves sergeant Peter Wiener from Tel Aviv was sentenced to 28 days in prison.

'Elimination' of Masked Arab Rioters Urged

TA030912058 9 Tel Aviv YEDIOT AHARONOT in Hebrew 3 Sep 89 p 2

[Report by Tzvi Singer]

[Text] A leaflet urging the elimination of masked Arab rioters, even if it means breaking the law, was distributed in Hebron late last week signed by the DOV (Down With the Traitors) Organization.

The leaflet was disseminated in several places in town. It calls on the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers to shoot to kill rioters. "You must eliminate the masked Arabs yourselves. Do not wait for an order from your commander, because it will not come. Your commander's hands are tied by the leftist steamroller," says the leaflet.

"Ari'el Sharon said that it is necessary to draft a law that would legalize the elimination of masked individuals. Will you wait until the cows come home for that legislation to be passed? Handle the masked persons yourselves, eliminate them," says the leaflet.

Katyusha Rocket Explodes in Jordanian Territory

JN0709111489 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 7 Sep 89

[Text] Amman—A military spokesman has stated the following: At 0130 today, Thursday, a 107-mm Katyusha rocket exploded in Jordanian territory near the cease-fire line in the al-'Adasiyah area. The incident caused no damage. The competent authorities began an investigation into the incident to determine the place from which the rocket was fired and to know the perpetrators of the incident.

King Husayn Returns Home From Belgrade 6 Sep

JN0609160289 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Text] Amman, 6 Sep (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn returned home this afternoon after heading the Jordanian delegation to the ninth summit of the Nonaligned Movement held in the Yugoslav capital, Belgrade.

His majesty was received at the airport by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, His Highness Prince Faysal Ibn-Husayn, his majesty's adviser, his majesty's personal adviser, his highness the chief chamberlain, his highness the private secretary, the ministers, the chief of staff, ranking civilian and military officials, and the Yugoslav ambassador in Amman.

Accompanying his majesty the king on his return were the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, his majesty's political adviser, and deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

His majesty had resumed meetings this morning with the heads of delegations participating in the Nonaligned summit. His majesty received at his place of residence in the Yugoslav capital His Highness Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah. The two leaders exchanged views on issues of mutual concern in addition to the strong bilateral relations between the two countries.

His majesty met last night with the presidents of Cyprus and Mozambique. He also met with the Romanian foreign minister, who led the Romanian delegation and whose country has observer status in the Nonaligned Movement.

These meetings were attended by the delegation accompanying his majesty.

King Backs Tripartite Committee's Reconvening

PM0709101489 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Sep 89 pp 1-2

[Zaki Musa report: "King Husayn Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: 'Atmosphere Suitable for Tripartite Committee To Resume Mission'"]

[Excerpt] Beirut, London, Belgrade, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, the Jordanian monarch, King Husayn, has emphasized that the atmosphere is now suitable for the Arab tripartite committee to resume its efforts to establish peace in Lebanon. He said: "The Arab tripartite committee—the senior committee representing the Arab nation's will—will resume its work in view of what it has proposed in its statement, proceeding from its eagerness to resolve the painful situation which Lebanon is experiencing."

King Husayn added: "It is out of concern for Lebanon, and for the Arab nation and its future, which prompts us to make a move and support the tripartite committee's efforts. This is because the situation is unacceptable, indicating that efforts to resolve the situation should be resumed at the Arab level."

King Husayn pointed out that "there is an Arab duty to confront all negative aspects and fears, and not let the Lebanese issue become one for international intervention." [passage omitted]

'Awn Speaks on Departure of U.S. Embassy Staff

NC0609194289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Text] Commenting on the Americans' departure from Lebanon, Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn said: It seems that the American Cain can no longer endure the looks of the Lebanese Abel, so he left.

[Begin 'Awn recording in English] I am not at all suprised by the apparently precipitate departure of our American guests early this morning. I use the term guests since as the American ambassador did not see it fit to present his credentials to my government. [end recording]

The prime minister says: I was not at all surprised by the quick departure of our American guests this morning. I use the term guests because the present American ambassador did not see it fit to present his credentials to my government. The status of the ambassador and the embassy staff is considered from the legal aspect as that of any visitor. The conduct of Ambassador McCarthy reflects the U.S. State Department's policy toward this area liberated from the Syrian presence.

[Begin 'Awn recording in English] I cannot believe that the American people and their representatives in the Congress and the Senate can possibly uphold their official support for what amounts to the forced sale of our country to the Syrians, a regime which gave long its total disregard for every convention of democracy, decency, and respect for human rights so widely and sincerely held in the United States of America. [end recording]

Gen 'Awn added: I believe that the American people and their representatives in the House of Representatives and Senate do not support the U.S. officials who support Syria's control of Lebanon.

[Begin 'Awn recording in English] It influenced even since our country without diplomatic representation. [sentence as heard] In his short time in our country, Mr McCarthy must have been aware of Syria's [word indistinct] of such things—terrorism, drug trafficking, terror bombing of civilians, and their repeated acts of international piracy through their imposition of an illegal maritime blockade of Lebanese territorial waters. [end recording]

Source Close to 'Awn Comments

NC0709074989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 7 Sep 89

[Text] While noting U.S. President George Bush's declaration that the United States is prepared to support any state that combats narcotics, a source close to General Michel 'Awn has stated that one of the principal reasons for the U.S.-Lebanese dispute is the closure of the illegal ports by General Michel 'Awn—the ports through which narcotics were circulated and exported, especially to the United States. The source said that this U.S. behavior is like looking for noon at midnight.

Fortified Shelters in U.S. Embassy Completed

NC0609191689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Text] A security source has said that building has just been completed in the U.S. Embassy compound of five shelters capable of resisting 240-mm shells used by Syrian artillery. The source added that the shelters are fortified rooms measuring 8 by 4 meters and are equipped with a central air conditioning system. They are reinforced by a 60-cm reinforced concrete ceiling covered by 2.80 cm of soil.

Kuwait Reports 'Awn's Readiness To Give Up Post

JN0609183089 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 5 Sep 89 p 17

[Excerpt] Paris—Well-informed Western diplomatic sources have affirmed to AL-QABAS that General Michel 'Awn, prime minister of the military government in Lebanon, is willing to relinquish his post in the context of a major comprehensive political agreement that would include a formal commitment by the Syrian leadership to withdraw its forces from Lebanon.

At the same time, American diplomatic sources that are directly concerned in the developments in Lebanon disclosed the truth about the differences between the United States and Gen 'Awn—the differences that prompted 'Awn to launch a violent campaign against American policy in Lebanon and went further by accusing the U.S. Administration of abandoning Lebanon in the interest of Syria.

Well-informed Western diplomatic sources told AL-QABAS in Paris that it has become clear—in light of the minutes of talks and contacts between Gen 'Awn and Arab and foreign officials recently—that 'Awn does not consider himself an obstacle to any agreement to achieve peace in Lebanon and save the country from its long ordeal.

The recent Arab and international contacts held with the prime minister of the military government in Lebanon have disclosed the following:

1. 'Awn is willing to relinquish or resign from his post the moment a formula for a political agreement is reached. And this political agreement should include the formal agreement of the Syrian leadership to withdraw its forces from Lebanon according to a fixed timetable. The agreement should also contain an understanding of the reforms in the Lebanese system and on adopting a number of steps—that is, reactivating the Lebanese Government institutions and ending the state of war.

2. 'Awn affirmed in these contacts and talks that he does not demand an immediate Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon but wants a formal Syrian agreement to withdraw its forces from Lebanon—an agreement that is linked with a fixed timetable to withdraw these forces. And this matter could be achieved under the supervision and

sponsorship of the Arab tripartite committee or any official Arab body authorized by the Arab summit.

If this happens, the liberation war declared by 'Awn on 14 March would have achieved its basic objective.

3. If such a comprehensive and integral agreement is reached, 'Awn will wait for the election of a new Lebanese president to place his resignation at the disposal of the new president. Sources close to 'Awn said that the demand for 'Awn's resignation before electing a new president is unconstitutional and illegitimate because the government of 'Awn was formed in accordance with the Lebanese Constitution.

4. 'Awn refuses to consider himself an obstacle to the political and constitutional reforms that are called for in the Lebanese system. In fact, he is ready —at the appropriate time—to speak officially and in detail about the reforms and to stress the need for achieving them in order to find a new, just, and balanced formula for coexistence among the Lebanese people.

5. 'Awn has reaffirmed to Arab and international representatives many times that he is ready to guarantee Syria's security in Lebanon but he is not ready to give Syria the territory. In other words, he is ready to guarantee Syria's security in Lebanon within a comprehensive agreement that guarantees Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, and territorial security.

The Western sources noted that many in Arab and international circles that are directly involved in the situation in Lebanon believe that 'Awn is honest when he says that he is willing to relinquish and resign from his post within the framework of a comprehensive political agreement, but not before achieving this agreement. [passage omitted]

Tripartite Committee Ministers To Meet 13 Sep

NC0609204389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Text] The foreign ministers of the Arab tripartite committee said they intend to meet in Jeddah on 13 September.

The ministers issued a statement in Algiers tonight saying: In view of the conditions prevailing in Lebanon and in response to the Lebanese, Arab, and international appeals to the tripartite committee to resume its activities, the foreign ministers will meet in Jedda next Wednesday to evaluate the situation and to consider the possibility of making a new move. They will submit the results of their evaluation to their leaders.

Statements Urge Muslims To Oppose Syrians

NC0609194189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Text] Statements signed in the name of the commander of the southern liberation and the official in charge of the Islamic national resistance [qa'id Tahrir al-Janub Mas'ul al-Muqawamah al-Wataniyah al-Islamiyah] were distributed in some Lebanese areas, particularly the South, West Beirut, and Tripoli. These statements called on Muslims to confront the Syrian occupation forces in all Lebanese areas and to resort to civil disobedience against this occupier.

Al-Musawi Urges National, Islamic Forces Unity

NC0309172389 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Text] Husayn al-Musawi, leader of the Islamic Amal Movement and one of the Hizballah leaders, said: We have no choice but to unite in a broad Lebanese-Palestinian national Islamic front. We are at stage in which we extend our hands and do not hesitate at all to meet with the communist, the Syrian Social Nationalist, and the Nasirite. He added: To meet in the capital of Islam [Tehran] means that we must meet with all the forces hostile to political Maronism, Israel, and imperialism.

Al-Musawi stressed that the agreement between the Amal Movement and Hizballah must be maintained, because any conflict can ruin us. He said: The Maronites have always conspired against the Muslims, noting that the battle between us and them is open despite the support they receive from the forces of world arrogance—Israel, America, and all the Arabs except Syria, the ally of the Islamic Republic. Syria will engage in an open battle against the Jews and the Maronites. He pointed out that Michel 'Awn's campaign against Syria is just a campaign against the Muslims.

Amal Arrests Group Planning Katyusha Attack

NC0509162489 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 5 Sep 89

[Text] The Amal Movement in Tyre announced in a statement today that it had arrested a group belonging to an organization who were firing seven 107-mm Katyushas from the western sector of the south. The statement did not specify the target of the missiles. The statement said that the Amal Movement declares that it will cut off the hands of all those who attempt to impair the security of the south or push through political deals that are far from Amal's unchanging and clear general policy. The statement stressed that all operations must pass through Amal's joint operations room and added that the Movement fully realizes the implications of firing Katyushas. It said, to do so will take us back to the situation which existed before 1982, which was full of disasters and destruction for our struggling people.

The statement noted in conclusion that checkpoints operated by the Movement have also seized 25 grad missiles.

[In a related, Tyre-datelined report, Paris AFP in English at 1522 GMT on 5 September says: "The pro-Syrian Shiite group Amal said Tuesday that it had arrested a

group of anti-Israeli guerrillas in south Lebanon planning to fire Katyusha rockets across the border at Israel. 'Firing rockets at Israel provokes destruction and displacement of the population, without any other results, Amal said in a statement released here, apparently referring to Israeli reprisals. A group of commandos belonging to an unnamed organisation was detained and seven rockets were confiscated Monday in the southern sector of Israel's self-declared 'security zone' along the Israeli-Lebanese border, the statement said."]

Al-Rasi on Arab Committee; Fighting Reported

NC0609175089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Text] Violent clashes involving the use of tanks and rockets broke out along the Suq-al-Gharb-'Aytat front at 1450. Meanwhile, sniper fire is currently being traded along the combat lines of the capital and the southern Suburb.

In another development and in a statement after his meeting with Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss this afternoon, Interior Minister Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi declared that the Tripartite Arab Committee will resume its activities within the next 24 hours. He added that this step will establish a cease-fire, lift the blockades, consolidate security, and control the coasts to prevent arms from being imported by either side. Dr al-Rasi went on to say that this step would not bring about the desired solution, but that we must embark on working out the political solution, hold presidential elections, and achieve reforms.

Radio Reports Overnight Clashes, Shelling

NC0709072989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 7 Sep 89

[Text] Syrian artillery shelled the Kasrawan coast at 0150 today, continuing intermittently until about 0500. Between 0400 and 0445 the al-Matn coastal and central regions came under heavy, concentrated fire from Syrian artillery emplacements in al-Mughithi and 'Uyun al-Ruhban. Al-Ashrafiyah area was similarly attacked.

Intermittent clashes also continued on the confrontation lines throughout the night. The Sodeco, Primo, al-Barjawi, and Ra's al-Nabi' confrontation lines were the scene of clashes during which shells fell in neighboring residential districts.

Clashes also took place yesterday evening on the Suq al-Gharb combat lines in the mountain and on the old Sidon road in the Southern Suburb. The clashes continued until after midnight. During these clashes, shells fell on the al-Hadath area. Bursts of gunfire and shelling are currently being heard along the confrontation lines.

Israeli, Resistance Activities Reported in South

NC0709083289 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 7 Sep 89

[Text] Reports from the south refer to Israeli military moves in the eastern sector. Security sources say that the occupation forces have rotated personnel and reinforced their positions in the area. The sources say Israeli vehicles were seen moving on the road between Metulla and al-Dardarah valley.

A Lahd patrol has made wide-scale searches in al-Kassarat. An Israeli force surrounded al-'Ayshiyah area in al-Wadi-al-Akhdar, where the resistance waged an operation against an enemy patrol, destroying a vehicle and killing or wounding those inside it. According to eyewitness reports, Israeli military helicopters overflew the area at night, as combing operations took place on the ground. According to reports from Hasbayya, resistance fighters attacked the barracks of Lahd militia in Zaghlah with machineguns and rockets. Several shells hit the barracks. Afterward, the Lahd militiamen switched off the floodlights in the barracks and combed the area extensively.

Israeli Aircraft Fly Over Beirut, Mountain

NC0609111189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Text] Israeli warplanes broke the sound barrier over the capital at approximately 1300 today after having flown over the south and the mountain.

Israeli Helicopters Fly Reconnaissance Sorties

NC0709075489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 07 Sep 89

[Text] In the struggling south, two Zionist occupation forces helicopters flew reconnaissance sorties over Abu Rashid hells in western al-Biqa' at 1310 yesterday. The Islamic resistance opened antiaircraft fire at the helicopters, forcing them to turn back toward the occupied territory.

In another development, resistance fighters have detonated an explosive charge in the al-'Ayshiyah area as a joint enemy and agents patrol was passing. The explosion destroyed an armored vehicle. Helicopters and ambulances evacuated the casualties.

Resistance Fighters Attack Israeli Targets

NC0509172289 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 5 Sep 89

[Excerpts] A resistance group attacked an agent patrol near al-Dardara, west of al-Khiyam City, yesterday. Two agents, including Abu-Nasir, the man in charge of the patrol, were wounded in the approximately 10 minutes of ensuing fighting. There were no casualties among the resistance fighters. [passage omitted]

A military source of the Nasirite Popular Organization has stated that groups of martyr Ahamd al-Jazzar, martyr Ma'ruf Sa'd, and martyr Ramiz 'Abd-al-Fattah belonging to the martyr Wadi' Haddad unit ambushed a tank belonging to traitor Lahd's militia in Kafr Falus area this morning. He added that they fired rockets and opened machinegun fire at the tank, destroying it and killing and wounding its crew members. Consequently, fighting involving all types of weapons took place in the front area. Shells reached residential areas in Sidon.

Machinegun Fire Directed at Israeli Gunboats

NC0709083589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 7 Sep 89

[Text] Gunfire was opened at Israeli gunboats cruising off the al-Jiyah coast at dawn today, according to security information. Helicopters flew over the [southern] coastal area.

Meanwhile, the Kafr Falus-Lib'a-'Ayn al-Mir combat lines east of Sidon are tense while intermittent machinegun fire is being exchanged between the positions held by the Popular Liberation Army and those held by Agent Lahd's militia.

West Beirut Army Fires at Maritime Targert

NC0609111589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Text] The Army Command's Guidance Directorate in [West] Beirut issued the following statment today:

A maritime target appeared off the coast of Tabarja at 0100 today. Our artillery fired at it in accordance with the decision to prevent arms and ammunition from reaching the eastern area shores.

Cuban Embassy Hit in West Beirut Shelling

NC0709080189 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0430 GMT 7 Sep 89

[Text] The al-Yarzah Army escalated the security situation at dawn today when it began an indiscriminate shelling of the residential areas in West Beirut and its southern Suburb. It shelled the areas of Cola, Corniche al-Mazra'ah, al-Barbir, 'Ayn al-Muraysah, the Military Beach, the vicinity of al-Hamra, al-Manarah, Jall al-Bahr, Ra's Bayrut, the vicinity of the American University, al-Rawshah, 'Ayn al-Tinah, Verdun, al-Qantari, Quraytim, Burj al- Barajinah, al-Raml al-'Ali, and the airport road.

Two persons were wounded in al-Musaytibah, and the Cuban Embassy Building in 'Ayn al-Tinah was hit.

The areas of Shwit.(al-Zahhar), al-'Abbadiyah, al-Shuwayfat, Baysur, and Kayfun in the mountain were also attacked.

Intermittent clashes involving automatic weapons and rockets had taken place in the capital, the suburb, and the mountain last night.

Media in the eastern area reported that shells fell on the coast of Kasrawan, al-Ashrafiyah, and al-Hadath at dawn today.

In yesterday's shelling, one person was killed and 10 others were wounded.

AFP has reported that 781 persons have been killed and 3,672 others wounded since 'Awn declared his destructive war.

Shell Kills German Citizen, Wounds 8 Others

NC0609180589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Text] Several shells fell in the 'Ayn al-Rummanah area shortly after 1715 this evening. One shell fell on the al-Matn coast at 1530. Earlier, a shell fell on a sewing factory in the Burj Hammud area killing German citizen Antoine Adis and wounding eight others, mostly female workers at the factory.

Afghanistan

Kabul, Rebels Differ on Status of Khowst Convoy

BK0609140289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1353 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Text] Kabul, Sept 6 (AFP)—A senior Afghan official said here Wednesday that a massive convoy of Soviet-supplied weapons was near its destination in southern Afghanistan, but resistance forces based in Pakistan countered that the rebels had blocked its advance.

Najmuddin Kawiani, Central Committee secretary of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), told Western journalists here that the convoy had travelled about 700 kilometres (420 miles) "with the loss of only one fuel tanker" and was now in the vicinity of Maywand, some 80 kilometres (48 miles) from Qandahar.

"The convoy will reach Qandahar," he said, but declined to specify a date, saying only that it was "proceeding quite normally."

(But resistance sources based in Quetta, western Pakistan, said the mujahidin had blocked the convoy's advance.

(The rebels said the 200 tanks and 800 trucks carrying tons of weapons and ammunition, including surface-to-surface Scud missiles, had still not reached Qandahar, Afghanistan's second largest city, where they should have arrived days ago.)

In Kabul earlier Wednesday, military sources said 1,300 trucks, believed to stretch for three kilometres (1.8 miles), had made it safely to the town of Girisk, between Diliram and Maywand.

The Kabul military sources said the convoy was mainly made up of fuel and ammunition, but Mr. Kawiani said it also carried food for the people of Qandahar, which has been under mujahidin fire for several months.

(The rebel sources in Quetta said however that only four tanks had reached Maywand and that the bulk of the convoy was still under rebel fire between Diliram and Girisk, 250 kilometers (155 miles) and 120 kilometers (75 miles) from its final destination.

(The convoy crossed the Soviet-Afghan border on August 23 at a post some 700 kilometers (435 miles) northwest of Qandahar, said the mujahidin sources, who said that four tanks were destroyed last week by mujahidin mines and rockets.

(Twenty-three government fighter planes are trying to protect the convoy by bombarding guerrilla positions, said the rebels.

(The convoy is of prime importance for the government forces, who are facing a stepped-up mujahidin offensive in southern areas across from the border with Pakistan, which backs the Muslim rebels.

(Qandahar airport has been rendered useless by constant rebel fire and would only be used for reinforcements by "very brave pilots," said a rebel commander with a smile.)

The Soviet Union, which withdrew its troops in February after a nine-year intervention, has continued aiding the government in Kabul. Washington, which sends aid to the rebels, says current Soviet weapon deliveries have reached "unprecedented" levels.

In Kabul, Mr. Kawiani said government troops in the eastern city of Khowst had "further consolidated their positions" after rebuffing a major mujahidin attack on the city last week. "The situation was very difficult," he said, referring to last week's fighting, "but today the situation is much better," he added.

"Khowst like Jalalabad will not fall," he predicted, referring to the four-month-long siege of the south-eastern city of Jalalabad launched shortly after the February 15 Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Military sources said the government kept up continual night flights of ammunition and essential supplies to Khowst throughout the attack because all land links with Kabul had been cut by the resistance.

Government spokesmen have confirmed the mujahidin captured three military outposts around the city, but have belittled the significance of the posts, saying that "they frequently changed hands" and "we will take them back."

Mr. Kawiani echoed government spokesmen in saying that he believed the resistance was stepping up attacks in Pakistan border areas at the present time "to give the impression that there is fighting all over Afghanistan."

Enemy Offensive in Khowst Reportedly 'Aborted'

LD0609171889 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Text] Brave armed forces of the country that fight in the trenches for the country's independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty, have aborted and repulsed an enemy offensive in Khowst Major District and inflicted strong and crushing blows on the enemy over the past 3 days.

BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY's [BIA] military section reports that joint enemy forces, consisting of the extremists, Pakistani military men, and Saudi Wahhabi mercenaries, which faced shameful defeats in Nangarhar Province, make futile efforts to achieve successes by putting military pressure on Khowst District, thereby covering up their shameful defeat in the area of Nangarhar Province. Armed forces units in Khowst aborted the enemy's joint offensives with unprecedented sacrifices and inflicted heavy losses on the warmongers.

As a result of the armed forces crushing blows over the past 3 days, 128 of the enemy were killed and 183 others

were wounded. A number of ringleaders, Pakistani military men and Saudi Wahhabi mercenaries are among those killed.

BIA's military section reports that as a result of the crushing strikes by the armed forces at Totakhel area of Alisher subdistrict in Khowst, 45 enemies, including 3 ringleaders named Zarjan, Arman and Dr Belal, 12 Pakistanis and 6 Saudi Wahhabi mercenaries, were killed and 85 others were wounded. Reports say that the enemy has transported its wounded to the area of Thal, on the Northwest Frontier.

It must be mentioned that the Western mass media have also admitted the enemy's heavy losses and have said that about 60 casualties have been sent every day to Pakistani hospitals since the start of Khowst offensive. Over the past few days 1000 people were either killed or injured in the area of Khowst District. In the past 3 days alone, as a result of armed forces action based in Khowst, 10 reactive sets, 7 guns, 15 rocket launchers, 6 mortars, 2 tanks, 3 DShK's, 3 vehicles used for carrying arms and ammunition, and hundreds of light weapons with an assortment of ammunition, have either been captured or destroyed.

The country's armed forces, which abort enemy attacks on our people's peace and tranquillity, have inflicted crushing blows to the east and southeast of Khowst on the enemy's concentrations and firing positions and have forced our people's enemies, who have suffered a loss in morale as a result of consequent defeats and losses, to retreat and escape.

Mujahidin Capture 8 Posts North of Khowst

BK0709054989 Islamabad Overseas Service in Urdu 0500 GMT 7 Sep 89

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, the mujahidin have captured eight Kabul regime posts in the Bagh Subdistrict north of Khowst. Seven Kabul regime soldiers were killed in this operation, and a large quantity of arms and ammunition was captured by the mujahidin.

Tribes Seek End to Blockade of Jalalabad Road

LD0509100889 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0506 GMT 5 Sep 89

[Text] Kabul, Sept. 4, BAKHTAR—In a tribal jirgah (assembly) which was held in the Spelanai area of Jamrod [preceding two placenames as received], it was decided that the extremists be expelled from the tribal areas and the Jalalabad-Towr Kham highway be opened to the normal traffic flow as soon as possible, reports reaching BAKHTAR say.

The blocking of Jalalabad-Towr Kham highway by the extremists has caused wrath and indignation of different ethnic groups residing in the Khyber Agency.

During the jirgah in which elders and representatives of 6 large ethnic groups took part the savage and anti-Islamic actions of the extremists were severely condemned. They expressed their complete readiness for the defence of independence, territorial integrity and national sovereignty of Afghanistan as well.

Also, participants to the jirgah supported proposals of President Najibullah aimed for the peaceful solution of the situation around Afghanistan.

They demanded Pakistan and the US to stop their interferences and aggressions, which is in complete contradiction with the orders of sacred Islam religion and international norms, in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. Otherwise their grave consequences will rest to them.

3 People 'Martyred' in Rocket Attack on Kabul

LD0509170489 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Sep 89

[Text] The Pakistani-linked criminal extremists today launched two U.S.-made surface-to-surface missiles against residential areas in Kabul city, thus repeating an unforgiveable and shocking crime against our Muslim and faithful people.

BAKHTAR's military section reports that as a result of this anti-Islamic and antihuman action, organized by Pakistani and U.S. state terrorism against our peace-loving and persecuted people, three people were martyred and two were wounded. The wounded were transfered to hospital and are under treatment. Also, as a result of the missile attack, material losses have been inflicted on our compatriots.

U.S.-Made Rockets Seized in Parvan Province

LD0209120989 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 2 Sep 89

[Text] Kabul, Sep. 1, BAKHTAR—A 52-number armed and another 100-member unarmed opposition groups, by realizing the futility of the continuation of fratricidal war and shedding blood in the country abandoned armed activities, and come over the the side of the Government on Thursday in Jowzjan Province.

The group which was equipped with heavy and light weapons, was warmly welcomed by party and state exchanges and a large number of inhabitants of the province.

Likewise, tens of Afghan refugees in spite of obstacles created on their way by Pakistani militarists, returned today in Samangan Province.

The security forces of the country in order to prevent extremists supported by Pakistani militarists and Saudi Wahhabis, rocket attack on Kabul city, carried out operations in Bagram District, Parvan Province today. They discovered a number of U.S.-made rockets, and a

large amount explosives placed by killers to be fired on crowded areas in Kabul city.

VOA Cited on Slow Delivery of Arms to Rebels

LD0409090289 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0521 GMT 4 Sep 89

[Text] Kabul, Sept. 3, BAKHTAR—The radio Voice of America (VOA) reported last night that the CIA authorities have removed its strike force acting-president [as received] in the Afghan affairs.

According to the VOA this person was removed from his post because the secret and open delivery of the arms to the Afghan extremists was carried out slowly during their invasion.

The observers believe that by doing so the U.S. Government has announced its open enmity against the people of Afghanistan and wants to kill Afghans by Afghans as well as full destruction of this country.

On the basis of a report of daily WASHINGTON POST, a great amount of destructive arms and munitions have been put at the disposal of the opponents of the state of Afghanistan through Pakistan recently. The report adds that the deadly arms have been also recently delivered to the fundamentalist groups which are not acceptable for the Western countries as well.

Golbuddin Members 'Massacred' by Rabbani Group

LD0309104189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Text] Kabul, Sep. 2, BAKHTAR—Attacks of members of the Rabbani extremist group on the strongholds of the Golbuddin men has been intensified since July 19, 1989, in Badakhshan Province, Shahadatyar, general commander of the Golbuddin extremist groups in Takhar, Konduz and Badakhshan reported to the centre of the group in Peshawar recently. The BAKHTAR correspondent reported from Badakhshan that.

The report has stressed that 262 of his men including ringleaders with the involvement of Mawlawi Nematullah, general commander of the area, were arrested by the Jamiyat group and later were mercilessly massacred. The Rabbani slaughters took out their eyes, broke their feet and hands and torn to pieces their abdomens.

Shahadatyar has added in his report that he is unable to explain the inhuman acts committed by the Rabbani slaughters on his killers. Shahadatyar has appealed his leadership that a condolence meeting be organised in Peshawar to the soul of those killed. He demanded that pressure be exerted on Rabbani and his groups in all parts of Afghanistan for committing such crimes.

Rabbani Rules Out Peace With Communist Regime

LD0409133389 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Sep 89

[Text] Burhanuddin Rabbani, minister of reconstruction in the Interim Government of Islamic Unity of Afghan Mujahidin, has stressed the mujahidin's eagerness to reach a peaceful solution that would stop the bloodshed in Afghanistan.

In a press statement published in Jeddah today [4 September], Burhanuddin Rabbani dismissed the possibility of reaching a peaceful political solution with the Communists in power. He said that despite strong pressure the mujahidin have not accepted any political solution that involved the participation of communists.

Shiite Mujahidin Send Message to Nonaligned Summit

LD0509153489 Tehran IRNA in English 1510 GMT 5 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sep. 5, IRNA—The Iran-based eight-party coalition of Afghan mujahidin sent a message to the 9th non-aligned summit in Belgrade Tuesday, protesting participation of the Kabul regime instead of "real representatives of the Afghan people". The message also called on the heads of state participating in the NAM [Nonaligned Movement] summit to condemn the U.S. and Soviet interventions in Afghanistan's internal affairs and help establish a non-aligned and popular government there.

The eight-party coalition, blaming the ongoing bloodshed in Afghanistan on Kabul's heavy dependence on the Soviet Union, noted that "Moscow's full-scale support for the Kabul regime has done nothing but fanning the flame of war." The messages expressed regret over the presence in the meeting of President Najibullah whom it described as "a person responsible for current crisis in Afghanistan" and for "infringing NAM's principles.

Najibullah Sends Congratulations to SRV Leaders

LD0309103889 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Text] Kabul, Sep 2, BAKHTAR—Congratulatory messages were sent by Najibullah president of the Republic of Afghanistan and Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers of Afghanistan to Hanoi addressed to Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party and Vo Chi Kong, chairman of the State Council and Do Muoi, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on the occasion of the 14 anniversary of National Day of Vietnam.

The message while expressing cordial felicitation on the occasion has appreciated efforts of Vietnam for the peaceful solution of Cambodian problem and ensurance of durable peace in that country, it has hoped that the

cordial relations existing between the Republic of Afghanistan and Socialist Republic of Vietnam be further consolidated in the future.

Deputy Prime Minister Opens Sheberghan Airport

LD0509110989 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0509 GMT 5 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Kabul, Sep. 4, BAKHTAR—The construction work of civil airport in Sheberghan city was recently completed and the first flight at the airport began on September 3 in a special ceremony held on the occasion.

Opening the ceremony, Muhammad Hakim, deputy prime minister said that owing to the special attention of the government to raise the people's standard of living, Sheberghan civil airport was built in order to provide facilities in the transportation of passengers from Kabul to Sheberghan and from Sheberghan to Kabul. The government's performances could be much higher in the absence of interferences and aggressions by the United States, Saudi Wahhabis and Pakistan militarymen into the internal affairs of Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

Bangladesh

Coast Guard Seizes Singaporean Fishing Vessels

BK0409144689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1435 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Text] Chittagong, Bangladesh, Sept 4 (AFP)—The Bangladesh Coast Guard Monday seized two Singapore-registered fishing vessels off this southern port and detained their 24 Taiwan crewmen, security officials said.

The ships and their crews were detained for illegally fishing in Bangladesh's territorial waters, the officials said.

The area where the ships were found is reportedly rich in lobsters.

Barter Protocol Signed With CSSR in Prague

BK0409135689 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 4 Sep 89

[Text] Bangladesh and Czechoslovakia signed a barter protocol in Prague, stipulating exchange of goods worth $23 million each way. According to a message received today, Bangladesh's exports include jute yarn and twine, jute goods, frozen seafood, and ready-made garments. The items to be exported from Czechoslovakia are steel scrap, pig iron, coal, road construction machines, and scientific, hospital and laboratory equipment.

Weekly Banned for 'Objectionable Statement'

BK3108163289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1616 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 31 (AFP)—Bangladesh authorities have banned the publication of a Bengali weekly for printing an "objectionable statement," officials said Thursday [31 August] quoting a government announcement.

The officials said the ASHEY DIN JAI (days come and go), a publication edited and published by Anwar Shahadat, had been banned under Bangladesh's Special Powers Act of 1974 for publishing the "objectionable statement" in an article titled "Jaundice Sangbadikata" (jaundiced journalism) in its July 30 issue.

The ban imposed Wednesday night also carried orders to confiscate all copies of the issue, officials said.

Publishers said the article was a regular satirical column, but included allusions to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia giving advice to the rightist Jamiyat-i Islami political party. Dhaka and Riyadh, both Muslim nations, maintain close ties.

India

Army Called in To Control Violence in Assam

BK0709023889 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Text] In Assam, troops were called out today to assist the civil authorities following clashes, arson, and looting at Samalpur in Nalbari District. The trouble followed Sunday's [3 September] bomb explosion at a paddy market under (Tamirpur) police station, killing three persons. Subsequent group clashes have claimed two more lives. Several houses were set on fire in the area.

In another unrelated incident in the Kamrup District, five passengers were dragged out of a bus by miscreants and thrown into the (Phuvari) River with their hands and legs bound. Two of them were rescued later by the police. Three others are still missing. Five people have been arrested in this connection.

Premadasa To Meet 5 Major Opposition Parties

BK0709022689 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Text] The Sri Lankan president, Mr Premadasa, has agreed to the request by five major opposition parties for a separate meeting before the all-party conference to be held next Wednesday [13 September]. Invitations to the leaders of the five parties have been issued for the meeting. This meeting will be held on Friday [8 September]. As already reported, the five major opposition parties in parliament have been insisting on a separate

meeting with the president before the all-party conference. They sought the meeting to discuss the proposals they had given to the president earlier.

In the ongoing campaign against extremists, the Sri Lankan security forces have arrested over 200 suspected subversives. Colombo has also claimed that 150 Sinhalese extremists have surrendered in the past few days.

Fresh incidents of violence in the island nation have claimed 15 more lives. The victims included a gram sevika [village-level official] and her husband and four JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] men.

In the Northeastern Province, a naval IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] patrol has destroyed an LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] boat. Four LTTE men were killed in the incident. Another was shot dead in a confrontation elsewhere.

Defense Ministry Issues Release on Bofors

BK0709003889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Text] It has been officially stated that the interview given by the former chief of the army staff, General K. Sundarji, and the story published in the latest issue of a Delhi-based English fortnightly are misleading and contrary to facts.

A Defense Ministry release issued in New Delhi today points out that in his interview the former army chief has reiterated that the selection of the Bofors system was entirely on merit and wholly free from any extraneous influence from any quarter. General Sundarji has confirmed that it was a considered professional assessment of the army headquarters that the Bofors gun was the best suited to meet the challenges posed to our security by arms acquisitions in our neighborhood.

Referring to his purported suggestion about the cancellation of the contract, the official release says that the former chief's assumption is not based on a complete awareness of the full facts and the sequence of events. When the Swedish National Audit Bureau report was received on the 4th of June 1987, which indicated that certain payments had been made by Bofors but did not disclose the identity of the recipients, the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, on the very day directed that immediate action should be taken to elicit the full facts. The prime minister also asked for a complete evaluation of the implications of the cancellation, including security implications, the financial impact and other matters.

The release points out that the facts would establish that the idea of the possible cancellation of the contract emanated from the prime minister himself. While carrying out the evaluation of the various aspects in pursuance of the prime minister's direction, the then defense secretary, Mr Bhatnagar, wrote to the former army chief for his views on the security aspects of the cancellation of the contract. The former chief's note, which was received the next day, indicated that the cancellation of the contract would leave a large void in the vital artillery support to field formations for 18 months to 2 years, which he said he is prepared to accept as a risk.

The note, however, did not contain any evaluation of the precise security implication, the attendant risk, and the relative strength and weaknesses of potential adversaries during that period in relation to the probable threat scenario. These serious lacuna were pointed out to the former army chief and the note returned for reexamination. While the matter was being examined in the Defense Ministry, a reminder was received from secretary to the prime minister to expedite the reply. A second note was received from the former army chief on the 15th of July 1987, which was in substance a [word indistinct] copy of the first.

The Defense Ministry made an overall analysis, which brought out that the cancellation of the contract would have several serious implications. It needs to be emphasized that the national security is much larger than its military aspect. It is the government which is answerable to the people. Therefore, the views of the army chief, though important, cannot alone determine national security decisions. Consequently, the very first consideration with government was the effect which a hasty cancellation of the contract would have on every aspect of national security.

The Defense Ministry statement underlines that it is relevant to note that the process of trial, selection, contracting and induction of this modern artillery system had taken a decade and in this area India was well behind the level of preparedness in the neighboring country. There was, therefore, in the then prevailing security environment a definite risk attendant upon delaying the induction of such a weapons system.

In has to be borne in mind that in the first half of 1987, there was serious tensions on our borders with Pakistan. Developments on our borders with China were also causing serious concern in the country. There was also no assurance whatever that such a risk, even if taken, would be have yielded either a disclosure of the identities of the beneficiaries or a recovery of the amounts paid. On the contrary, there was every likelihood that a cancellation would have been legally contested and might well have cost additional penalties by way of compensation. Moreover the replacement of the Bofors system by another one would result in an additional financial burden of hundreds of crores of rupees.

The Defense Ministry release says that the interview and the story in the fortnightly gave a distorted picture of the meeting taken by the prime minister on the 4 July 1987 on his return from Moscow. It has been alleged, on an admittedly hearsay basis, that a threatening approach proposed to be adopted by the Defense Ministry officials toward Bofors was turned down by the prime minister. This has been based on a statement purported to have

been made by Mr N.N. Vora, the then additional secretary. This allegation is baseless and it has been categorically denied by Mr Vora himself. Indeed, the entire sequence of correspondence of Bofors, which has been already made public, would clearly establish that no effort was spared to pointedly seek all the relevant information from the company. Repeated communications were also addressed to the Swedish Government. An aide memoire was sent reiterating the Government of India's earlier request for full information. In June 1987, the Swedish foreign office assured that an official reply would be sent to the Indian ambassador in due course. When none was received another aide memoire was given to the Swedish embassy in New Delhi in August 1987 by way of reminder.

Keeping in view the fact that on the 11th June 1987 the establishment of a joint parliamentary committee had been proposed, Bofors were addressed afresh on the 16th July and once again asked to furnish specific replies to the questions put to them. This refutes the allegation that the prime minister turned down any move proposed by the Defense Ministry officers to coerce Bofors to furnish the requisite information.

The official release says that it is unfortunate that the former army chief has knowingly committed the impropriety of disclosing the contents of a top secret document, especially when it contains an assessment on matters relating to national security.

In a separate statement, the former defense secretary, Mr S.K. Bhatnagar, has described as unjustified and baseless any insinuation that he had asked the former army chief, General Sundarji, to modify his views on the security implications of a possible cancellation of the Bofors contract. He said the relevant record in the defense ministry will speak for itself.

Mr Bhatnagar, who is now the governor of Sikkim, said that General Sundarji's note in mid-June 1987 on the subject in response to his letter as desired by the prime minister, was very brief and somewhat cursory in less than a page. As General Sundarji's note was rather cryptic about the crucial aspects, he had asked the former army chief to reexamine the implications comprehensively.

Mr Bhatnagar recalled that he reminded General Sundarji in mid-July 1987 as the prime minister's office was pressing the Defense Ministry for a comprehensive note.

The former defense secretary described as factually incorrect the description given by General Sundarji about the meeting held by the prime minister on the 4th of July 1987. He pointed out that the hearsay account of General Sundarji attributing certain remarks to the then additional defense secretary, Mr N.N. Vora, is contrary to facts. Mr Bhatnagar also refuted the impression sought to be created that there was any let up in the efforts to obtain the necessary information from Bofors.

He said General Sundarji could not have been aware
the persistent effort made by the Defense Ministry in th
regard.

Mr Bhatnagar also clarified that Lieutenant General
Kaul, now retired, had not mentioned to him the nar
of either Sofma or Bofors when he talked about a b
offer made by some intermediary to help a particul
company.

Mr Bhatnagar said that General Kaul also did n
comply with a detailed written report about the alleg
tions as asked for by them.

Finance Minister Talks With USSR Counterpart

BK0609144689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Text] The finance ministers of India and the Sovi
Union have begun talks in Moscow to consider
aspects of economic relations between the two countrie
They will also discuss international economic issues.

Mr S.B. Chavan is leading a high-level Indian delegatio
on a 9-day visit to the Soviet Union.

10 Percent Growth in Gross Domestic Product

BK0709080089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 7 Sep 89

[Text] The national economy has achieved a growth ra
of 10 percent for real gross domestic product durin
1988-89. This has been stated by the Reserve Bank
India in its annual report for 1988-89. The report sa
that agricultural production, backed by a bountiful mo
soon last year, is expected to show a record increase of
percent in contrast to the decline of 2 percent in 1987-8
The report estimates the average growth for the first
years of the seventh plan at about 8.5 percent as again
the plan target of 8 percent.

The average growth in agricultural production for th
first 4 years of the seventh plan is higher than the pla
target of 4 percent. The economy has achieved a recor
production of foodgrains which stood at 172.2 millio
tons. This has surpassed the previous record of 152.
million tons in 1983-84 by 13 percent.

The Reserve Bank says that the overall industrial growt
has been 8.8 percent compared to the growth of 7.
percent in 1987-88. The industrial growth has bee
better spread across a wider section of industries.

The capital market has shown buoyancy during the yea
under review. Fresh capital issues were larger an
evoked better response. The report says that the bud
getary deficit, growth of liquidity, and inflation would b
the areas of concern.

Iran

Ahmad Khomeyni on 'Propaganda' of Division

LD0709123789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Sep 89

[Speech by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Ahmad Khomeyni at a meeting with participants in a Koran recitation competition and group of martyrs' families from Esfahan on 7 September; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] One of the issues worthy of great attention is that of unity among our dear and martyr-nurturing people, unity between our people and officials, and unity among the officials themselves. We are all aware that when his holiness the imam left this earthly life for the eternal life all the interpretations of your enemies implied that Iran thereafter would become the scene of confrontation, massacre, and bloodshed, because his holiness the imam was no longer there to bind the people together. You all saw that after the imam's demise the people's unity was consolidated. The people, with their political intelligence, rushed to the streets and dealt a firm slap on the mouths of the East, the West, and the criminal United States. The West had imagined that with the imam's departure you people would not have enough endurance under the burden of economic difficulties, that the inspirations you used to gain from meetings with the imam or from listening to his speeches would no longer be there, and that inevitably you would resist your officials, thus paving the way for the enemies to attain their goals.

Dear brothers and sisters, these days the sneaky propaganda of your enemies divides the officials into two camps. It has long done this. However, today, when the imam is no longer with us, they have intensified such a campaign. They have presented the issues of radical and moderate, introducing some as opposed to the United States and some of those who understand the conditions of time and place while being aware that they must compromise with Western countries in order to attain comfort. You all know your high- ranking officials very well. You know our dear president very well. If our president is not against the United States, then who in Iran is against the United States? Our president is someone who used all his abilites to kick the shah out of this country, thereby delivering a fundamental blow to the United States in the region. he was the imam's disciple. Today, too, he is not someone who will take one step outside the framework of the imam's path and guidelines.

We promise you that we will not take even the smallest step which is against your interests and those of the country, Islam, and the revolution. You must pay utmost attention to the issue of people seeking to create a rift between you. Your officials have no one else but you. They are neither dependent on anywhere else, nor does anyone confirm them. None of the enemies—inside the country or abroad—is prepared to take one step forward for the sake of you dear ones. We must do our utmost because this is the reconstruction era. If you are vigilant, then what your officials are trying to achieve will be achieved more easily. If you make no compromise vis-a-vis the enemies' conspiracies by being ever vigilant then you may be sure that your country will follow the path of development and the proper Islamic standard of living.

It is true that there is no war today. But you all know Iraq and those countries supporting it. You are familiar with U.S. conspiracies. We must be prepared to meet the demands of the war fronts if the enemy wants to attack us one day. Why were your children martyred? They were martyred to attain the goal of their imam. They were martyred to safeguard you, all the dear people of Iran and all Muslims, in the face of Islam's enemies. And, to be fair, they really did that very well.

Once again I thank all you dear ones. I beseech God to grant us victory on the way of the imam and his aims and objectives. I beseech him to use us in the kinds of tasks that our dear imam wished. May God look after you all. Peace and benedictions upon you.

Oman's Offer To Bridge Rift With Riyadh Welcomed

LD0709083289 Tehran IRNA in English 0750 GMT 7 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 7, IRNA—The English daily TEHRAN TIMES Thursday welcomed Oman's offer to bridge the rift between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

The daily's editorial referred to Oman's ties with the Iran during the last 10 years as a "balanced relation" despite Oman being a member of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council whose "certain members adopted a hostile attitude against Iran during the imposed war and helped the Iraqi regime in terms of money and political backing."

"As far as Iran is concerned it is the open policy of this country and the policy of the Islamic revolution that cordial relations should be maintained with the neighbors and especially with Muslim countries," it stressed.

"This is the reason that the Iranian officials have welcomed the moves of the friendly countries for partching up relations with neighboring countries," it added.

The daily, however, pointed out that "there are certain issues to be thrashed out before the resumption of diplomatic relations" with Saudi Arabia.

Referring to the Saudi act of depriving Iranian pilgrims to perform hajj rituals for the last two years, the editorial said that "the friendly countries who consider that the Irano-Saudi relations should be resumed... should try to convince the Riyadh regime that the Muslims in no way should be deprived from going to the holiest of places in Islam."

"We know the importance of the unity and solidarity among not only the Muslim countries but also among the entire Third World, especially now that the imperialist forces are joining hands in the name of detente," TEHRAN TIMES said.

The paper expressed confidence that Iran "will be the first country to welcome any move for removing all misunderstandings and disputes among the regional countries if these moves are sincere and based on justice."

It concluded expressing the hope that "Oman will keep this fact in its mind."

Tehran TV Reviews Relations With United States

NC2608154289 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1615 GMT 26 Aug 89

[Unattributed commentary: "A Glance at Iran-U.S. Relations," from the "Weekly Report" feature]

[Text] One of the most important topics discussed in the international press recently has been the future of Iranian-U.S. relations. Reports noted that George Bush repeatedly expressed hopes for detente in Iran-U.S. relations.

In his remarks, Bush said that Iran can show its interest in detente between the two countries by working for the release of the American hostages. He said this at a time when the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, especially His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, had made strong remarks, terming any improvement in relations with a country that continues to defend the Zionists and to trample on the rights of oppressed peoples impossible and contrary to the principles of the revolution.

The important point, though, is what the United States means by these statements and what is behind its efforts to improve relations. The answer to this question can be found by going back to the days of the Carter administration. Throughout his presidency, Jimmy Carter was never able to develop a consistent policy or approach to Iran's revolution because the crisis of the nest of spies [American Embassy] and other problems besetting the last years of his administration created a dilemma for American policymakers. This prevented the development of a stable approach toward Iran's revolution during the 2 years of the Carter administration that coincided with the Iranian revolution, and one of the main reasons for Carter's defeat was the confused U.S. approach toward Iran.

The new president elected in Novemeber 1980 placed the Iranian issue at the top of his foreign policy agenda from the very start. Even after the crisis of the American spies held in Tehran had ended, the continuation of the imposed war created conditions in the region that kept Iran on Reagan's agenda.

During the 8 years of the Reagan administration, the United States concentrated on building a wall around Iran in an attempt to keep Iran from making any type of overture abroad. By fostering fear of the Iranian revolution among Arab regimes, it sought to preserve these regimes' distance from the officials of the Iranian revolution. It was in this way that the Americans were able to sell millions of dollars of arms to Persian Gulf countries and to bring those regimes that were prepared to do anything to protect the existing order closer to them than ever before.

The second phase of U.S. policy in the region concerned relations with Riyadh. The United States tried to fill the vacuum caused by the absence of a pro-U.S. gendarme in the region by further arming Saudi Arabia.

The third phase of Washington's policy in the region witnessed the expansion of U.S.-Iraqi relations, a chapter which opened in 1983. Throughout these years, the Americans used a two-edged approach in confronting Iran. On the one hand, they tried to use any means possible to increase the military and economic pressure on Iran, a country which had for years based the structure of its economy and of its military forces on its relations with the United States. On the other hand, they tried to persuade the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran of the need for a rapprochement with Washington.

This policy suffered serious defeats in the years the imam was with us. The imam described the United States as the Great Satan and stated that any improvement in relations was impossible as long as American politicians pursued a policy of diktat.

In final phase of its approach on Iran, and after the failure of McFarlane's trip, Reagan tried to increase U.S. interference in the Iran-Iraq war. After Iraq suffered a defeat at al-Faw, the United States increased its presence in the Persian Gulf and opened another front at a time the war on land covered 1,200 km.

The result of this increased presence and the Iranian-U.S. confrontations in the Persian Gulf, which culminated in the downing of the Iranian passenger plane, showed that the United States was serious in its defense of Iraq. When Iran saw all powers, from the United States to the Soviet Union, standing next to Iraq, it changed its tactics and accepted Resolution 598. In a world where no one understood the language of the oppressed, Iran changed its approach to imperialism, which was attacking it from all sides and demanding it accept the resolution, and decided to speak in a language the imperialists would understand and to use this language to disgrace them.

It is indisputable that the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf played an extremely important role in this change in approach. Had the United States not been present in Iran's southern waters, the Iran-Iraq war may well have taken a different course.

In the third stage of the revolution's confrontation with the United States, George Bush is now the U.S. President. Even though he pursues many of his predecessor's

policies, he does so without all the noise Reagan made. There have been two major developments: the changed face of the Iran-Iraq war after the acceptance of Resolution 598 and the death of the imam. For the United States, these two developments were enough to initiate a completely new phase. It appears that Kissinger's theory on Iran had now reached its final stage. In 1984 Kissinger said that Iranian-U.S. relations are exactly the same as U.S. relations with China and that the United States would only have to wait for some conditions to change and then it could resume its activities.

It seems that now Bush considers the imam's demise as opening the door and he is preparing to cross the threshold.

However, domestic conditions in Iran, the views of various officials, and the hatred for the past that remains in the people's hearts will not give the United States this opportunity.

If the Americans smile at Iran, no will in Iran will smile back. If they offer their hand, no one in Tehran will shake it.

Besharati Outlines Position on Resolution 598

LD0609110289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 6 Sep 89

[From the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps program]

[Excerpts] Our correspondent has been asking brother Besharati, the deputy foreign minister, about his opinion concerning the delay caused in implementation of Resolution 598. We draw your attention to that interview.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] After thanking His Excellency Mr Besharati, the esteemed deputy foreign minister, I would like to say that without any doubt the direction of the diplomacy of East and West before the acceptance of the resolution was inclined toward ending the war without any clear military winner. Under present conditions, and in view of the obstacles blocking the way of peace negotiations between Iran and Iraq, how do you assess the role of the arrogant powers toward the elimination or the continuation of these obstacles?

[Besharati] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. It is fruitless to analyze the factors which have brought obstacles on the path of peace negotiations without paying attention to the motives of the war. We are aware that the war was imposed on us at a time in which all the ploys and conspiracies of [words indistinct] the charge d'affaires of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, in other words their scenario, for influencing the situation in order to benefit Western arrogance, had all failed. It is natural that military attacks should be a collective act consisting of all other attacks, conspiracies, and inauspicious plans of arrogance aimed at returning the situation to normal. If anyone thinks the continuation of the war, or the slogans during the course of the war, or the invasion of some parts of Iraq caused international pressures, he is committing a great mistake. If we had stood in our positions, and if we had not chased the Iraqi forces after the "Beyt-ol Moqaddas" operations—which led to the liberation of Khorramshahr—they would still not have given us anything, and the pressures would have continued.

Now that we have accepted the cease-fire for some reasons, no one should think that those powers who are members of the Security Council and who imposed the war on us in order to break the back of the Islamic revolution, are in any way ready to adopt a decision which is in our interest, or that they are prepared to do something to make the course of events benefit the Iranian nation and the Islamic revolution. [passage omitted]

Resolution 598 was ratified by the Security Council member countries themselves. Every team and delegation, wherever they went, declared that Resolution 598 was the best solution to ending the war. But we saw that this was not the case, as the same powers who imposed the war on us and then devised and ratified Resolution 598 to end the war are now engaged in setting up obstacles. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Mojahedin-e Khalq Denies Killing Qasemlu

PM0409131289 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 30 Aug-5 Sep 89 p 4

[Letter to the chief editor from the Mojahedin-e Khalq Information Office]

[Text] AL MAJALLAH Chief Editor 'Abd-al-Rahman Hamad al-Rashid, Esq.
Greetings.
In its 15 Aug 1989 issue AL-MAJALLAH published an article by Fahmi Huwaydi titled "Has Confrontation Begun Among Groups in Iran?" At the end of his article he discussed the issue of the assassination of Qasemlu and two of his aides in Vienna, saying that "various indications point to the involvement of an Iranian party in the murder, and if that proves to be true, it will constitute a clear violation of the line adopted by Hashemi-Rafsanjani, which he is trying to consolidate with support from Khamene'i." But Fahmi Huwaydi—who seems alarmed at that outcome, about which no one is in doubt—is searching for something to amuse and calm him, which is why he went on to analyze that issue (Qasemlu's assassination). He adds:

The facts which Fahmi Huwaydi deliberately refuses to accept and tries to conceal in his article are as follows:

1—The "Mojahedin-e Khalq of Iran" and the Iranian people's just resistance speak the language of violence and weapons only with the major enemy of the Iranian people, namely, the Khomeyni regime. They do not use arms in any other situation to settle problems.

2—The armed struggle arena of the Iranian resistance against the Khomeyni regime is inside Iran's borders,

and the Mojahedin-e Khalq of Iran sees no legitimacy at all in using acts of violence outside Iran's borders.

3—Even more important than these two points which Fahmi Huwaydi is trying to conceal is the point concerning the issue in question, namely, Qasemlu's assassination: Hashemi-Rafsanjani himself was behind that operation, and those who participated in the negotiations with Qasemlu and those involved in the assassination were members of a single group operating under Hashemi-Rafsanjani's supervision. So despite the propaganda about Hashemi-Rafsanjani's moderation, he was and still is the main promoter and planner of all the Khomeyni regime's past and present terrorist acts and practices outside the borders, including Colonel Higgins' execution and Qasemlu's assassination. He laughs at those who try to prove their innocence by various kinds of fabricated and primitive evidence and pretexts.

4—As for the Mojahedin's military capability and their ability to infiltrate the regime's military and civilian organs, and also the organization's activities after Khomeyni's death, it is enough to ask Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Khamene'i, and the other key elements of the regime about it; that is, it is better to ask about those still busy with the countdown for the overthrow of the regime, as they have been stricken by confusion because of their ability to continue in power over that period! [sentence as published] And what threat do they pose?

5—Finally, we want to emphasize that in the past, for instance, Fahmi Huwaydi defended, through the Egyptian newspaper AL-AHRAM, the Khomeyniites in Tunisia and complained that the Tunisian Government was not giving them the complete freedom to carry out their activities. In that regard, we refer you to the reply published in AL-AHRAM on 6 July 1989 by the Tunisian Embassy in Cairo, which refuted Fahmi Huwaydi's allegations in that regard, describing them as "false facts and an investigation of the Tunisian situation heavily biased toward Khomeyni's followers and sympathizers in Tunisia."

The Information Office of the Mojahedin-e Khalq of Iran, Bagdad, Iraq

President Issues Message on Congratulations

LD0609124389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, while thanking all the different strata of our country for sending messages of congratulations to him for his election as the president, issued a message asking the compatriots to refrain from sending or publishing telegrams of congratulations from now on. The text of the message is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Following my election as president, their eminences the ayatollahs, the hojjaj ol-eslam, and esteemed figures in the Islamic Republic of Iran, artistic societies and artists, managers and officials, and members of scientific, cultural and education institutions, Islamic societies, unions and guilds and members of the bazaar, Iranians resident abroad, different groups of workers, farmers, disabled, and the esteemed families of martyrs, missing-in-action and POW's, and various individuals from our good, sincere and self-sacrificing society by sending messages of congratulations have shown their kindness to me. I wish to announce my gratitude and thanks for all this kindness and sincerity our dear people have demonstrated toward their servants, and I beseech God Almighty for the success of all in serving the revolution and the country. I ask you to refrain freom publishing messages of congratulations from now on.

[Signed] Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran

[Dated] 6 September 1989

Rafiqdust Named Chairman of Oppressed Foundation

LD0609125489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of Islamic revolution, issued an edict appointing Mr Mohsen Rafiqdust to the post of chairman of the Foundation for the Oppressed and the Selfless Devotees. The text of the edict is as follow:

His Excellency Mr Rafiqdust, may your success continue. In view of Engineer Mir Hoseyn Musavi's resignation as chairman of the Foundation for the Oppressed and the Selfless Devotees, and in view of your distinguished experiences in work and management in various occupations and the great inclination and interest you have in serving the dear selfless devotees, I appoint you to the post of chairman of the said foundation for a period of 3 years.

The important issue is that all the existing facilities and resources in that foundation be utilized through ceaseless endeavors and utmost care, thereby using the incomes primarily for securing the needs of the esteemed selfless devotees, who are the living marytrs of the revolution and the valuable memento of 10 years of the Iranian nation's resistance. Of course, all the foundation's income must be utilized toward the cultural and economic affairs of the oppressed.

I consider it necessary to express gratitude for the efforts of His Excellency Mr Musavi, who through the course of his premiership was the chairman of that foundation. It is expected that you should benefit in this important responsibility from the cooperation of relevant organs and faithful, committed, and skilled individuals. I ask God Almighty for your success.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i

[Dated] 6 September 1989

Majlis Approves Note on Import, Export Law

LD0609161889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Text] Our reporter has sent us a report about this morning's open session of the Majlis:

[Unidentified reporter] In this morning's open session of the Majlis, a legal bill to add a note to Article 49 of the law on national imports and exports which have a singular urgency was debated in the presence of the Council of Guardians' members and was approved by the deputies. According to the note to the single article of this bill, Iranian workers who are working in the Persian Gulf littoral sheykhdoms who possess a work certificate issued by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, can engage in the purchase of vans, trucks, minibuses, buses, tractors, loaders, bulldozers, graders, mechanized shovels, motorcycles and engines for agricultural pumps:

A. They could import the above items in a fully manufactured state without receiving any import permit, but by paying the full customs duty and commercial tariffs and sell them under government supervision. The make and specification of any of the items included in this note, as well as the number and the maximum amount of the value in rials which may be imported by a worker, will be defined in regulations which will be approved by industrial ministers.

B. They could pay the foreign currency value of any of the items specified in this note, as well as minivans which they wish to buy to the foreign currency account of domestic manufacturing plants; and also pay the equivalent of 10 percent of the foreign currency value of those items to the foreign currency account of the organization in charge of the renovation and expansion of Iranian industries, or the Iranian National Industries Organization, with the confirmation of the Markazi Bank [Central Bank] of the Islamic Republic of Iran, so that it may be solely used for the sake of after-sale services. The producing plants are dutybound to manufacture and deliver the vehicles specified in this note and requested by customers within a maximum of 4 months after the payment of foreign currency amount, and to make use of the foreign currency earned through the sale of those items for the importation of raw material and needed spare parts of the above items without any transfer of [extra] foreign currency.

IRNA Details Republic's Banking System

LD0309152489 Tehran IRNA in English 1311 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 3, IRNA—Shortly after the culmination of the Islamic revolution in 1979 the banking system in Iran was governmentalized and the various private banks were amalgamated into a group of 10 banks. Since March 21, 1982 the banking system has provided as much as 6,571 billion rials ($91.2 billion) to the Government of the Islamic Republic. The Iranian banks now function as economic entities which carry out policies designed by economic architects.

A survey of the operation of the banking system in Iran since the start of the current Iranian calender year 1368 (March 21, 1989) printed in the current issue of the persian monthly 'SANAT HAMLO-NAGHL' says during the past few years the Government of the Islamic Republic has made use of cash reserves of the banks for three main purposes:

1. To compensate for national budget deficit in the general budget (with unanticipated repayment)
2. To compensate for insufficient revenue of government companies (with anticipated repayment) and
3. To benefit from interest-free loans and other banking facilities in the sectors itemized in the notes to the national budget.

Although by executing the policy of utilizing banking resources for making good on on national budget the government managed to dispense with foreign loans the policy also left its negative impacts on the national economy and the budgetary and fiscal system.

Banking experts say to rely on banking facilities in the business and service sectors precipitates inflation but to block this alternative while other alternatives are open to those sectors would be to ask for inflation and deprive the banks of a principal source of revenue.

The idea of preventing the outflow of banking facilities and credits in the business and service areas during the past three years as adhered to by the government and the Central Bank is a plausible policy, but it will lead to favourable results only when the volume of cash flow in circulation is under the control of the government.

In view of the large volume of cash in circulation outside of the banking system the marking off of 6,500 billion rials ($90.2 billion) from monetary resources with the banks has left its negative impacts on the operation of the banks.

A second method for utilizing banking resources is to make use of loans provided to government companies for compensating budget deficit in those companies. Though such payments are according to established contracts with clear repayment schedules on many occasions the repayment has hit difficulties. When it comes to collecting outstanding debts the banks do not happen to be as successful in taking legal actions against government companies as they are with the private sector. Since March 21, 1987 as much as 407 billion rials ($5.6 billion) has been paid to government companies.

A third alternative anticipated in the national budget is to rely on interest free loans. The national budget of the current year under one heading anticipates an allocation of 650 billion rials ($9.02) for implementation of the government's agricultural, husbandry, poultry farming and other projects.

The utilization of interest free loans specially in the area of production is a positive step toward promotion of economic plans of the government provided only that the Bank Markazi (Central Bank) adopt and implement specific monetary policies aimed at attracting more interest-free deposits in non-interest bearing accounts.

Experts look forward to seeing that during the post-war reconstruction the resources of the banks increase as a result of well-devised policies and effective policies of the Central Bank, and that by encouraging the people's investments the banks may better participate in the production activities while an effort is made to funnel to the banks the people's savings in the business and service areas with a view to increasing the profit level of the banks.

In the current calendar year the 10 banks in Iran will have a combined revenue of 800 billion rials ($11.11 billion] and will expend about 781 billion rials ($10.84 billion) with a combined profit of 19.3 billion rials ($268,055,550).

Financially the most successful of all banks is the Central Bank (16 billion rials or $222,222,200) and the banks with the largest losses are the Bank Saderat of Iran and the provincial banks (seven billion rials or $97,222,222).

In sum four of the mercantile banks in the country will be total losers while professional banks will all have profits. The situation has been true since March 21, 1987 at which the Central Bank in fulfillment of the contractionary policies of the government banned banking operations and banking facilities in the area of trade and services.

Since then mercantile banks in Iran have obtained the bulk of their operational revenues through short-term credits which do not have assured immediate profits or sufficient output. The following profit and loss table of the banks shows the process of the operation of the banks in relation with the contractionary policies of the government at three intervals before and after the implementation of the policy.

Mercantile Banks	Professional Banks	Central Bank	Year
15,108	25,224	80,442	1363 (84-85)
5,359	-3,279	45,278	1366 (87-88)
-6,372	9,623	16,107	1368 (89-90)

It is thus clear that until the policy was implemented in the year 1366 (March 1987-March-88), professional and mercantile banks were doing fairly well in a balanced condition owing to the national condition.

As a result of that balance the Central Bank as the mother bank recorded a high level of revenue. In the year 1366 (March 87-March 88) professional banks recorded a loss, mercantile banks also recorded dwindling profits, and on the average the Central Bank, too, earned 4 percent less than it had done in the previous years. At that time the contractionary policies were enacted, and three years later the mercantile banks hit a loss while professional banks made good on their losses and showed a profit of 9.6 billion rials ($125 million).

The general status of the banks during the three periods identified above (Iranian calendar years 1363, 1366, and 1368; that is, March 21, 1984 thru March 20, 1990) is evidence that until March 20, 1985 the banking system unhindered by contractionary policies and not much exploited by the government for its resources was making a profit, but that the two elements gradually left their negative marks on the financial status of the banks in Iran.

Tabriz Power Station Recommences Operations

LD0609210289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1700 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Text] Steam Unit No 1 of the great Tabriz power station's renewed operation has enabled the power station to produce more than 800 megawatts electricity, meeting part of the energy needed by the country. Regarding that operation we draw your attention to a report by our colleagues from the center in Tabriz:

[Unidentified reporter] The damaged units of the great Tabriz power station were reconstructed. As a result, the power station, with an output of more than 800 megawatts electricity, meets part of the energy needed by the country.

In an interview with the a Central News Unit reporter, the managing director of the Tabriz power station, announcing the said report, added that the Tabriz power station consists of two steam units with an output capacity of 774 megawatts, as well as two gas-fired units with an output capacity of 64 megawatts. Unit No 1 of the steam generator was commissioned in the year 1365 [year ending 20 March 1987]. However, due to enemy air attacks, this unit, as well as the gas-fired unit were 80 percent damaged. Now, thanks to the 24-hour efforts of the committed employees of the Tavanir Company [Iranian state-owned national grid electricity company], they have been reconstructed without the presence of foreign experts. With the commissioning of steam unit No 2, the power station now has a total output capacity of 840 megawatts. As well as meeting the electricity needs of Azarbayjan, this output is also fed into the national grid through the transfer posts of 400 and 230 kilowatts, thus meeting part of the energy needed by the country.

In conclusion, he added that for reconstruction of the damaged units more than 1 billion rials has been expended from credits allocated to the headquarters of the country's reconstruction. To increase the output, the power station's output capacity is to expand to the extent of 1,000 megawatts.

Political Roundtable on Lebanon Situation

NC2508071889 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1615 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Political roundtable discussion with Foreign Minister Dr Velayati and Sheykh ol-Eslam, deputy foreign minister for Arab-African affairs, moderated by unidentified correspondent in Tehran; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Unidentified correspondent] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. Greetings, dear viewers. We are here with another weekly political roundtable discussion. Our guests are His Excellency Dr Velayati, the honorable foreign minister; and Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam, deputy foreign minister for Arab-African affairs. Our discussion this week concerns the latest developments in Lebanon.

Mr Velayati and Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam, I thank you both for participating in this program. Mr Velayati, I would like to ask you the first question. In the new phase of East-West relations we are witnessing a detente in tense areas in the world. Lebanon, however, continues to remain a tense country. What is it that places Lebanon outside the framework of the superpowers' compromise?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the almighty, and the merciful. Greetings, dear viewers. Lebanon is a country with many political complications. Many world and regional problems are related to this country. Many of Lebanon's problems reflect unresolved and difficult problems in the other parts of the world, especially in the Middle East. Your comment about the two superpowers' agreement on detente in various parts of the world is correct; however, one cannot conclude from this that the people of the world are exclusively in the hands of the two superpowers or that the world's political equations are under their orders. This is what they want; there are, however, other factors affecting various problems in various areas. Therefore, you see that in South Asia, Southeast Asia, the Persian Gulf, Palestine, Central America, and South Africa many problems continue to exist. Moreover, if an agreement has been reached on solving regional problems, world problems then emerge. The conflict between the North and South has deepened. Various countries' economic problems are pushing the world toward a serious crisis.

However, various factors are involved in Lebanon. Islamic and popular demands in confronting Zionism have been controlled in some areas by resorting to hypocritical measures. However, the Islamic demand of the world of Islam and the Arab demand of the Arab people, who constitute part of the world of Islam, and the national sentiments of the Palestinians, combined with their religious sentiments, are elements that exist and will emerge in the area. The conflict between Israel and Syria, the only frontline country which continues to stand steadfast on the principle of struggling against Zionism, exists. The problems created by colonialism for Lebanon continue. Lebanon's system of sectarianism, a vestige of the French colonialism, continues to exist. There are various other elements such as the presence of a large number of Palestinian refugees on Lebanese territory, the existence of various political trends in the world of Islam and the Arab world and their repercussions inside Lebanon, and other elements which there are too lengthy to list, that have an impacts on the existing situation in Lebanon. The situation has not reached a point where, if the two superpowers want to place a country like Lebanon under their influence and diktat, they can succeed.

[Correspondent] Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam, there is an opinion that Michel 'Awn is trying—by the gradual occupation of Lebanese territory—to form a Christian government in the occupied area of Lebanon. What is your opinion?

[Sheykh ol-Eslam] Of course, the formation of a smaller Israel in Lebanon is one of the objectives which colonialism pursued after the victory of Iran's Islamic revolution, or more accurately said, after the oppressed Lebanese nation and especially the Shiites began to hope that they would gain their rights by relying on this revolution that was victorious in Iran and on the strong government that was formed after this revolution. They intended to continue the arrogant and colonialist system which Dr Velayati also mentioned; that is, the main power in the hands of the Maronite sect. At first Israel tried to occupy Beirut. The Americans, the French, the British, and the Italians not only politically endorsed this occupation, but they also established their military presence in order to support it. The Shiites, who were enamored with the imam and Islam, selflessly ousted all of them and pushed the Israelis back. They sent the supporters of Israel to hell. After this, strengthening Michel 'Awn was placed on the agenda of the United States and they blatantly admitted it. They waited for Amin al-Jumayyil's term of office to end—and it was expected that this oppressed sect would have become more aware of its rights and more united by that time—to start a conflict which we are today witnessing. [sentence as heard] The United States overtly announced that they will reconstruct the Lebanese Army; and they did so. Now too the Western powers, with the cooperation of the Ba'thist-Zionist Iraqi regime, are pushing the area toward the division of Lebanon. But fortunately, with the unity that we see today among Lebanon's national forces, what you said about Michel 'Awn's advancement is not correct. He has not advanced, and national and Islamic forces have been able to advance in some areas, even though their intention now is not to advance, although they have the ability to do so. The plan of arrogance is to divide Lebanon. However, the plan of the Islamic and national forces is to preserve Lebanon's unity. In this conflict, I think the majority of the Lebanese oppose the division of Lebanon and what Michel 'Awn, the Americans, and the Israelis want. Dr Velayati described the situation and talked about the sensitivity of Lebanon in the major problem of the Muslims and Palestinians. It is a source of pleasure that with the unity of these forces, we are currently not facing the threat of such a plot.

[Correspondent] Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam referred to the national and Islamic groups in Lebanon. The new conference that was held in Damascus and attended by 21 national-Islamic parties and groups, following the conference in Tehran on the 40th day since the death of the imam, may God bless his soul, showed that these groups are united in the movement against the Israeli forces and Michel 'Awn and that they can, if they carry out the agreements among themselves, become the center of gravity of a change in the balance of power on the Lebanese scene. My question is: What factors prevented this unity until now, and what decisions have been reached about implementing the agreements?

[Velayati] As you pointed out, the first step toward this was taken by the Palestinian and Lebanese forces, both the Muslims and the nationalists, when they were in Tehran on the 40th day after the death of the imam, may God bless his soul. There were 14 of these groups at that time. During the next round in Damascus, the number increased to 21. Only the Islamic Republic of Iran was present in the Tehran talks. When we went to Damascus, the Syrian foreign minister attended the meeting also. A statement was issued at the end of the meeting reflecting the decisions made by this gathering under the aegis of Iran and Syria. I think that such a development will have an extreme impact in Lebanon, in Palestine, and in the region. It was the first time that a session consisting of Islamic and national groups was held. This was unprecedented in the history of the Lebanese people's struggle. Therefore, foreign observers attached great importance to it, and this had its impact on the Lebanese scene. We think that implementing the contents of the statement issued at the end of the Damascus conference is actually the main objective pursued by all of us. A six-member committee has been formed to follow up the points agreed on in the final communique. We believe that in the near future—perhaps in less than a month—we will be able to hold a meeting in Tehran and follow up the decisions adopted in the Damascus meeting. We are faithful to whatever was discussed there. We and Syria continue to support the people of Lebanon in their efforts to preserve their independence, to gain their unity, to form a rule based on what the majority wants, and to oust the aggressors and, first and foremost, Israel from Lebanon. We and Syria, as two progressive countries in the region, consider ourselves committed, both in words and in deeds, to support the Islamic, popular, and national forces in Lebanon. And, God willing, we will carry out this committment in the future.

[Correspondent] God willing. Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam, minutes before coming to the studio, I heard that Mr Velayati sent a letter to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on France's military intervention in Lebanon. I would like to ask a question about France, and about the West in general. We know that Michel 'Awn has requested the United States and France to extend military assistance to the Phalangists. In a rapid reply, the French sent their ships to the Beirut coast. On the other hand, unidentified reconnaissance aircraft—it is said that these were American planes—have started to fly over the region and over national, Islamic, and Syrian positions. Are all of these not preparations for a military intervention? What is your opinion on this?

[Sheykh ol-Eslam] Undoubtedly, everything that you have referred to—Israeli and American reconnaissance flights, the presence of the French fleet now, and the strengthening of Michel 'Awn since 1982 when the Israelis were unable to stay in Lebanon—are all coordinated. These do not happen without a plan. Unfortunately, those who lack logic and politics always resort to force. Of course, the history of Lebanon—and we do not want to mention other areas as well—has shown that the use of force against this nation is not a successful method. In my first answer, I pointed to the military presence of Israel and to the support and military presence of all the forces that we are now talking about. We all know what happened to them, and they know it too. They should have learned a lesson from this. My advice is that their claim that the Eastern bloc and some other countries do not observe democracy and the right of the majority should be applicable to Lebanon too. Now the Islamic and national forces are ready and say: Come and let us solve Lebanon's problems at the negotiating table on the basis of the very logic in which you believe. This is not because these forces are weak. No, it is because their logic is strong. But despite the principles that it falsely pays lip service too, instead of accepting this solution, the other side is saying no. The factionalism should continue and, if necessary, by force. This is not to the benefit of the Lebanese nation and leads to foreign intervention and to the reliance of specific groups like Michel 'Awn's that want to continue its domination over Lebanon, and sacrifice Lebanon's interests for the continuation of this domination and support for foreign forces. In other words, it sacrifices Lebanon's interests for the sake of France's interests in Lebanon. We believe that this will not lead anywhere. We guarantee that this presence will not lead anywhere. The national forces are united and determined. The Islamic forces which have very clearly shown their selflessness in the struggle against the Zionists are also ready and determined, and it is not to anyone's benefit for Lebanon to move toward further militarization.

The letter sent by Dr Velayati to Perez de Cuellar today contains a request for Mr Perez de Cuellar to carry out his legal duties and to stop the presence of and intervention by the foreign forces there.

[Correspondent] This letter will be broadcast on the news tonight. The Islamic circles have another view about this. They believe that under the current circumstances, as you yourself stated, U.S. or French intervention seems very unlikely, and that it is more likely that Israel will strike a blow. What is your view on this?

[Sheykh ol-Eslam] Israel has always been the tip of the West's arrow or, better said, the West's rabid dog to devour the oppressed. We see how the Palestinians today are standing empty-handed in their just struggles against

the Zionists' crushing machinery. We see this on the news every night. This method has been used several times in Lebanon too. But my advice to them is—if they accept any advice—that Lebanon has repeatedly shown that it is not a place and its people are not people who will surrender to such methods. Hundreds of foreign forces have been sent to hell thanks to the martyr-seeking nature of a devout Muslim who believes either in succeeding or in going to paradise. Both are considered as successes. There are many such people in Lebanon, and the Lebanese people have shown their readiness to make sacrifices in street fights where they have been very successful. The solution propounded by the national and Islamic forces benefits each and every Lebanese, be they Christians, Muslims, Druzes, or any other sect. They are saying: Let us sit down and talk and let the majority vote. If the majority vote is for the Maronites, then let it be the Maronites. If it is for the Muslims, let it be a Muslim, and if it is for a Druze, let it be a Druze. They say: Let us act on the basis of the interests of the majority. This may be a very good basis for putting an end to sectarian differences and, as a result, foreign influence to exploit these sectarian differences.

[Correspondent] Mr Velayati, early last week Michel 'Awn unconditionally announced his readiness to talk with Islamic and national factions about the future rule of Lebanon. What objectives is Michel 'Awn pursuing with this unexpected overture?

[Velayati] An answer to this was given by Walid Junblatt, head of the Progressive [Socialist] Druze party, and by Nabih Birri, leader of the Amal Movement, in their interviews. We think that the motive behind this person's remarks is a type of retreat in front of former claims. Instead of the word motive, we can say that the meaning behind what this person has done is that he has retreated from his former positions. Probably the most important factor was the formation of the Damascus meeting with the participation of Lebanon's and Palestine's Muslim and combatant forces under the aegis of Syria and Iran, the statement issued by them, as well as the practical impact that the gradual unity of these forces has had on the Lebanese scene. In other words, there is no such thing now as an Amal-Hizballah conflict. We hope that this will never be repeated. We hope that the occasional conflicts between Amal and the Druze, between Amal and the Palestinians, and the Islamic, combatant, and national forces—all of whom should strive toward a common ideal which is the struggle against Zionism and its mentors—will not be repeated.

Fortunately, with God's grace, these groups acted like a united force during the past weeks and especially during the days after the Damascus conference. Michel 'Awn has seen that he cannot attach hopes to Lebanon's domestic situation, as was also pointed out by Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam. Probably one of the reasons behind the presence of the French fleet near Lebanon is to boost the Michel 'Awn's morale. This is actually psychological support combined with logistic support. You know that Lebanon's Christian-inhabited ports in the eastern area and Juniyah were under siege by Syrian forces and Lebanese allies. The first practical impact of the presence of the French fleet near the Lebanese coasts was to end this siege and open the way to help Michel 'Awn. Michel 'Awn himself confessed in a recent news conference that he received arms from France and Iraq. Help must have certainly come to him from other sources too. But he did not see it in his interests to reveal this. Definitely Israel plays a major role in all this.

[Correspondent] Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam, one of the demands of the mentors of Michel 'Awn, headed by the Israeli regime and Iraq, and of the reactionary Arab regimes indirectly is that the Syrians leave Lebanon, hence the economic, political, and military pressures on Syria. If these pressures continue or increase, how will the Syrians react in your opinion?

[Sheykh ol-Eslam] You have raised an interesting point. Naturally the Syrians went there at the request of the Lebanese and Arab forces and the continuation of their presence is the major guarantee that events will not lead to the (?division) of Lebanon. Of course, the recent Arab summit in Casablanca pointed out that the presence of the Syrian forces there is legal and that the Israelis are the occupiers. The presence of the Syrian forces while the Israelis are still in Lebanon is the just and common demand of all Islamic and national forces and of all those who are fighting against Zionism. Even though the Arab League committee emphasized during the Arab summit that a just system should be established, that factionalism should be abrogated, and that the Syrian presence should continue, nevertheless the statement it issued spread doubts in all of us as far as this tripartite committee is concerned and made us wonder if they are not saying exactly what Michel 'Awn, the Israelis, and the Americans are saying; and this is a point that should be studied. I think that no matter what pressure is applied by the Western countries—the United States and France—and the Maronites, the Syrian forces have the capability to remain there until a logical outcome is achieved from these recent developments. And this enjoys sufficient Islamic support inside Lebanon and national support among Lebanon's national forces.

[Correspondent] Mr Velayati, a Jordanian soldier recently crossed the border between Jordan and and occupied Palestine and was martyred after a 4-hour clash with the Zionists. The Western mass media, as part of a conspiracy of silence, refused to reveal any details about this action. Only one news agency mentioned it and reported that the Jordanian soldier had demanded the release of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd. Do you have any more details about it?

[Velayati] We think that even if governments come to terms with Israel, the people will definitely not follow suit. The Jordanians are Muslims and they completely reject the occupation of the holy land of Palestine and Jerusalem. This flame will continue to burn in the hearts of Muslims, and every once in a while this flame burns more brightly. Several similar incidents have also taken

place in Egypt. The future gives more grounds for hope than did the past. The people are more alert and will demand to be treated with the respect they deserve. What this soldier did was symbolic. This is the way I see it. This act can be viewed as a symbolic. That soldier acted as he did because of his faith. We can see this as an example of what the Lebanese people could do if they had access to arms, of how they could break the chains that surround them and strike at the heart of the enemy, even if it results in their martyrdom. You saw how the same thing happened in south Lebanon, and I assure you that there are hundreds and thousands of Muslims in Lebanon and in Jordan and millions of Muslims around the world who are prepared to sacrifice their lives for the salvation of Palestine, which is one of the most sacred parts of the Islamic world.

[Correspondent] Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam, as you know the Arab tripartite committee, consisting of Morocco, Saudi Arabia, and Algeria which had undertaken an extensive effort to resolve the Lebanese crisis, announced in early August that it had been unable to end the civil war in Lebanon. However, the statement in which the committee announced that it had reached an impasse made no mention of the committee's plans. Do you know anything about these plans?

[Sheykh ol-Eslam] I do not have specific information, but I can say as I did earlier that this committee deviated from the Arab League decisions, which had stressed the need for an end to factionalism and the continuation of the Syrian presence. However, the statement issued by the the committee in Algeria was apparently a rehash of what Michel 'Awn has been saying. In other words, it emphasized the withdrawal of Syrian forces and elections. This makes us skeptical. A similar program was recently put forward by the French which also called for the withdrawal of Syrian forces. The fact that reactionary regional forces, Iraq's 'Aflaqi regime, the United States, and Israel are all following one plan on Lebanon makes us more determined in our support for the national and Islamic forces and for the Syrian presence in Lebanon. It is quite clear to us that the war that is going on there is between the forces of arrogance and the oppressed and deprived Lebanese nation, which is fighting for its rights.

The former is resorting to all means at its disposal in its attempt to annihilate the latter and bring about the division of Lebanon. As I pointed out, however, thanks to the recent activities of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Syria, despite all the support the forces of Michel 'Awn have been receiving there is no possibility of their victory over the Islamic forces, which can advance if a political analysis deems this possible and beneficial to them. What I want to say is that the Islamic forces will definitely not be defeated and if necessary, or if the crisis is exacerbated further, they will have the ability to advance.

[Correspondent] Mr Velayati, my last question: As you know, Islamic and non-Islamic countries have put forward various plans for resolving the Lebanese crisis. Has the Islamic Republic of Iran put forward its own plan and, if so, can you please discuss its points?

[Velayati] The Islamic Republic of Iran's plan is based on the formation of a government in Lebanon that represents the will of the majority. This entails the end of factionalism. The plan also requires that foreigners keep their hands off Lebanon and do not determine the fate of Lebanon. Israel should withdraw from south Lebanon. If the United Nations can implement its own decisions, then it should implement its decision which was based on the UN Charter. The crux is that Israel withdraws from the occupied territories. Of course, this does not mean that specific rights and concessions should be given to Israel and its supporters in Lebanon. Israel must withdraw unconditionally. If the United Nations is unable to achieve this because of the influence of some countries that have the right of veto, then it should give the Lebanese people the opportunity to do so and prevent intervention by others. The Lebanese people will then be able to push back Israel from the areas where it is now and liberate their territory as they were able to gradually push Israel back from Beirut and bring the situation to its present point. We think that on the basis of the Islamic Republic of Iran's plan, the various sectors in Lebanon and Lebanon's masses should be taken into consideration and those whose dependence on foreigners has been proven in one way or another be deprived of influence. It is not important how this is done; what is important is that what is done is within a framework that is acceptable to the people. Anyone who claims that this is not what the Lebanese people want can easily carry out a referendum. What the Islamic Republic of Iran's proposal offers is not intervention in Lebanon's domestic affairs. We are saying that a suitable government must be established in Lebanon and that there is a logical way for liberating Lebanon. This can be achieved if a government based on the will of the majority is established without foreign intervention. We came to this conclusion in our contacts among the various groups in Lebanon, the various Islamic and national fronts, as well as those Christians in Lebanon who are not politically dependent on Michel 'Awn, as is the case with many of Lebanon's Christians who are respectable people who want to have a free country. Instead of the sectarian divisions, a democratic rule based on the will of the majority should be established there.

[Correspondent] I thank you, Mr Velayati and Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam, for participating in this program. I also thank you, the dear viewers, for watching our program. Good night.

* Former General Predicts Return of Shah

35540107 Istanbul NOKTA in Turkish
18 Jun 89 pp 18-19

[Interview with General H., "former senior operative of SAVAK," by Mahmut Ovur and Haluk Akter; date, place not given]

[Text] General H. does not wish his name and picture to be publicized for fear of his life, because he is a former

senior operative of the murderous SAVAK, the Iranian intelligence organization of the shah period, whose name is synonymous with the torture and murder of hundreds of political prisoners. Born in Salmas, Iran, General H. first studied mathematics and then sociology. In his words, he entered SAVAK to "serve his country." Now he continues that service in Turkey. But now he does it as a fugitive and serves the new shah (Reza, the son of the old shah). Having lived in Turkey for 10 years fearing an attempt against his life any time, General H. notes that his old friends from the Turkish intelligence community have helped him extensively. Stating that he meets with the young shah frequently, General H. replied to questions by NOKTA's Mahmut Ovur and Haluk Akter on what may happen in Iran in the aftermath of Khomeyni's death.

[NOKTA] As a former SAVAK official and a supporter of the shah what was your reaction to the death of Iran's religious leader, Khomeyni?

[General H.] I can say that the democracy that has been disrupted for 10 years will be reinstated and that the crisis calamity that has befallen upon the Iranian people is about to end. Now a new way has opened for the Iranian people. I believe that they will not miss this opportunity.

[NOKTA] Were they waiting for Khomeyni's death to do that?

[General H.] This may seem strange to you but one man can be that important. Khomeyni imposed his dictatorship and principles on the entire world. He was Iran's sole ruler. He ruled the country as he wished. From that standpoint, I respect his thoughts. But not from a humanitarian point of view. Because he was also the murderer of millions of people. I do not think that anyone in history was as brutal as he was. I cannot compare him even with Hitler.

[NOKTA] Yes, but Khomeyni was not alone in Iran; he was supported by many influential politicians who are backed by millions of people. How can you ignore them?

[General H.] That is what was said when the shah was overthrown. But Khomeyni did not do it alone. There was support from outside, particularly from Britain. In addition, the People's Mojahedin, the Tudeh Party, the Kurdistan Democratic Party, and extreme fundamentalist groups joined hands to overthrow the shah. But after Khomeyni took power he got rid of all of them. He also killed many of the influential people who accompanied him to Iran. But his enemies increased proportionately. In sum, Khomeyni was a very influential person. That is why his death may change many things.

[NOKTA] What may happen in the near future?

[General H.] I do not think that anything significant may happen until the 40-day mourning period is over. Some people in certain cities may engage in rebellion. The shah issued an order in 1985 demanding from the people that they not work against Khomeyni. He asked them to work for unity. I think that he acted that way because of the international situation. We also saw that the People's Mojahedin and the Tudeh Party were massacred despite their readiness to fight. Many of our citizens died in those battles, but we have become strong. We are very pleased with that situation. This will also help the democracy that will return to Iran. The leftists will not be a problem.

[NOKTA] What will be the effect of Khomeyni's death on relations among Islamic forces? At present there is Hashemi-Rafsanjani who is known to be very powerful and the radical Khamene'i who was named to replace Khomeyni. There are also other important Islamic movements. What type of power struggle do you foresee among these forces?

[General H.] Most of our people are Muslims. I grew up among these mullahs. My late father was one. They would rise to the pulpit and preach. They would take 5 riyal and leave. I think that bullets cannot kill a mullah. A mullah is killed by another mullah's word. At present there are three types of mullahs in Iran. The Sadullahs, the Hezbollahs, and the mullahs who dress very well and who are said to be Khomeyni's intelligence officers. The most powerful of these is Hashemi-Rafsanjani. But these are not extreme fundamentalists. They are easy to talk to. The Khamene'i wing is very hard-line. They operate as if they have blinders on; they cannot see their right or their left. Moreover, these people pursue neither money nor power. Consequently, they are very dangerous.

[NOKTA] Does the shah have the strength to return to Iran? What is the status of your organization?

[General H.] Let me first say this. Two months ago there was a major rebellion in the Iranian naval forces. About 10 to 15 leaders of this rebellion were executed, and the rebellion was completely suppressed. This is a simple example. Today the shah meets on a daily basis with all types of people ranging from common citizens to very powerful individuals in the army. You talked about strength. If today Turkey allows the shah to come there, his real strength will become evident. But now his strength is dispersed to all corners of the world. In the past, there were 61 pro-shah organizations. Now they are all united under a single organization which is led by the shah. Today if the shah says 'I am going to Iran; let everyone who wants to join me do so,' there would not be too many people inside and outside Iran—except the leftist mojahedin—who would not join him. But the shah said in his recent speeches that they too will be allowed to come to Iran.

[NOKTA] Is any outside intervention possible?

[General H.] Categorically, no. The Soviets would not intervene. Because Iran is not Afghanistan, and the United States would not permit it. The United States can rid itself of this catastrophe if it wants to. But it must fully support the pro-shah forces to do that. That may happen from now on. But even if the United States offers

full support, success depends on Turkey and the posture of the Turkish government. Turkey has a major role to play in this situation. We are grateful to the Turkish nation for opening its arms to us so far. But that is not enough; we want Turkey's full support.

[NOKTA] Nearly 1 million Iranians are currently in Turkey. What is the strength of your group and other groups?

[General H.] The People's Mojahedin operate mostly among students and young people here. They help newcomers and try to win them over. Occasionally they publish communiques. As for us, it used to be asked during the tenure of the Ulusu government: Is there a force or not? That force existed and worked on the condition that it caused no harm to the Turkish state and people. There was an armed assault force of more than 2,210 people. Of course, that force was not adequate for us. But after the Ulusu government stepped down, this became a bargaining issue. It became like a toy. You know the people who fall into a pit while watching a balloon rise. That is how they made us fall into a pit.

[NOKTA] As the supporters of the shah, how long do you expect the post-Khomeyni administration in Iran to last? Do you have any expectations for the near future?

[General H.] That cannot be foreseen at this time. That will be partly determined by developments outside of Iran. The situation inside the country is very favorable. It will perhaps be even more favorable in 2 months. But we must wait at least for the 40-day mourning period to be over.

[NOKTA] But Iran is experiencing perhaps the loneliest period in the history of its foreign relations. It has support neither from the United States nor from Europe.

[General H.] Yes, but the U.S. support is secret. It is not telling us the truth. It does not give us direct support to enter Iran. But if it does some day, this government would have a much shorter life. Turkey's position on this issue is also very important. But we have not received any support from Turkey. We are also tormented by the fact that in the Middle East only Turkey lowered its flags to half-mast on Khomeyni's death. Why only Turkey?

[NOKTA] Does your organization have any preparations for the future? Can you say anything concrete on this issue?

[General H.] Of course, we have. First, we exist as a government which has a political plan. I can even call it a government-in-exile. Our new constitution is ready. In this constitution, the shah will serve as a symbol or an arbiter. A full democracy will be put in place. Just like in Europe. If the country's ruler returns to Iran, he can put the country on the right track very quickly. Because we are ready.

[NOKTA] You said that organizations loyal to the shah have united. What is being planned for the new era? Are there any new developments?

[General H.] At the general congress held in 1985 the shah asked us not to engage in any activity and exhorted us to unite. Unity was eventually established as a result of work carried out in that direction. Now we will hold our first meeting to evaluate the new situation in Paris in the coming days. That meeting will mark the beginning of a new period. In other words, it will be a meeting where decisions for action will be taken. But I cannot say much about what those decisions may be. Those will be disclosed in the coming days.

Pakistan

Bhutto Addresses Defense of Pakistan Day Rally

BK0609172289 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1610 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Excerpt] The nation observes the Defense of Pakistan Day today to highlight the heroic deeds of the armed forces for the defense of the country. Addressing a mammoth rally at Liaqatbagh in Rawalpindi this evening, the prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, praised the valor of the Pakistani Armed Forces. She said: Indeed, the whole nation is proud of its forces—their courage and valour in 1965 war had increased their prestige tremendously in the eyes of the nation.

The prime minister said the present democratic government would work for promoting national unity and cohesion, safeguarding the frontiers of the country and giving automony to the provinces as envisaged in the Constitution. It would also rid the people from regional, parochial, and economic crises and improve the standard of the living of the people. She said: Ours is an Islamic national democratic Constitution and people's government which is working for the larger interests of the country.

Ms Benazir Bhutto said the government would construct 1,500 houses in each National Assembly constituency and these would be given to the poor shelterless. The prime minister told the rally that her government had launched a crusade against narcotics, smugglers, bribery and armed violence. [passage omitted]

Report on Armed Forces Chiefs in Rally Denied

BK0609154489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Text] The Defense Ministry has denied the reports published in some newspapers that the chiefs of the armed forces have been invited to attend the public rally in Rawalpindi today. The Defense Ministry has said the official functions of the Armed Forces were held in the race course grounds, whereas the rally was attended by the people. Making a clarification on this matter, the minister of state for defense, Retired Colonel Ghulam Sarwar Cheema, had already made clear the differences between the official and public functions.

Paper Notes President-Prime Minister Differences

BK0209103289 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 25 Aug 89 p 4

[Editorial: "An Unfortunate Controversy"]

[Text] Both the president and the prime minister are sticking to their positions on the issue of whether Admiral Iftikhar Sirohey is up for retirement this year as chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee. This is the upshot of what Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said in a recent interview and the subsequent reaction to these comments from "sources close to President Ghulam Ishaq." The disagreement over the issue between the two is now not just public but an item of national debate and numerous exchanges between government and opposition leaders, with people taking one side or the other. This politicisation of an unfortunate disagreement is a regrettable development. It has, for the first time, publicly pitted the president and the prime minister against each other, with those elements, who always feel uncomfortable with democracy, deriving vicarious satisfaction from this. Everyone would agree that any prolongation of this dispute is hardly helpful for a democratic system which is still struggling to find its feet. Therefore the sooner the matter is amicably resolved, the better. The kind of public controversy that has now come to surround Admiral Sirohey is also far from beneficial to the high military office that he occupies.

The whole affair does however address attention to the ambiguities of a constitution that has probably been disfigured beyond recognition by arbitrary amendments carried out during the days of military rule. Therefore, the likelihood remains high that even if the Sirohey matter is solved, new areas of differences can emerge, again, in the future. This only underscores the need to establish good working relations between the president and the prime minister in the days to come in order to ensure the smooth and trouble-free functioning of the system. Of course nothing could be better than scraping the Eighth Amendment, which has created so much constitutional confusion in the first place and represents the arbitrary *diktat* of an authoritarian order. However until the necessary consensus and indeed the parliamentary majority can be forged to do away with this, the key actors of the political system should learn to live with each other, as well as with each other's powers, with a degree of tolerance and responsibility.

Sri Lanka

45 Subversives Surrender; Police Make Arrests

BK0609134289 Colombo Domestic Service in Tamil 1230 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Text] Forty-five persons belonging to subversive groups have surrendered to the security forces in the last 24 hours. It has been reported that besides this the security forces and police have arrested more than 200 subversive suspects. During their search operations, the security forces have seized (?files) and a large quantity of ammunition.

A curfew will be imposed from 2200 [1630 GMT] tonight and will be relaxed at 0400 tomorrow morning and will be reimposed at 2200 tomorrow night.

AFP on Latest Arrests

BK0609104889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1009 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Text] Colombo, Sept 6 (AFP)—Sri Lankan security forces arrested 224 suspected rebels in the latest sweep of an ongoing campaign, while largely politically motivated violence left at least 15 people dead, officials said Wednesday. Troops killed four subversives—an official term for fighters of the Sinhalese guerrilla group Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front)—in Southern Province in the past 24 hours, a government statement here said.

The statement said the men tried to escape a military cordon in the Dikwella area when they were shot dead. Hundreds of people have been arrested every day in the past few weeks in stepped up anti-subversive operations. The statement added that in Northcentral Province during the past 24 hours subversives had killed four civilians while 44 suspected rebels had surrendered to security forces.

"Within the last few days 153 subversives have surrendered to the security forces," the statement said.

"Two hundred and twenty-four suspected subversives were taken in for questioning by the security forces within the last 24 hours," the statement added.

It said Indian Peace Keeping Force troops deployed in Sri Lanka's Tamil-populated northeast destroyed a boat with four rebels of the dominant Tamil guerrilla group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). Another LTTE guerrilla was shot dead by the IPKF in the same area, the statement said.

Residents said the bullet-riddled body of a man was found in Colombo's Dematagoda area Wednesday. The circumstances of his death were not immediately clear. Another body was seen on the beach in the southern town of Matara Wednesday. Residents contacted by telephone said work in banks in the area was seriously affected Wednesday due to sharp absentism in response to a JVP call.

The Sinhalese rebel group staged a week-long strike last week crippling work in banks, government offices and corporations in most parts of the island.

Both the LTTE and the JVP are opposed to, for different reasons, to the July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord under which New Delhi has some 42,000 troops in the island's northeast.